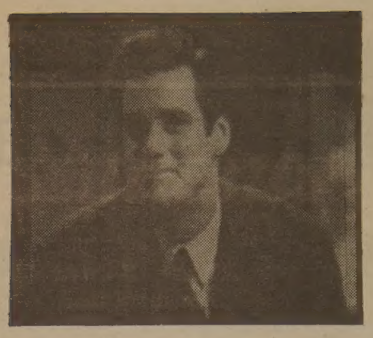
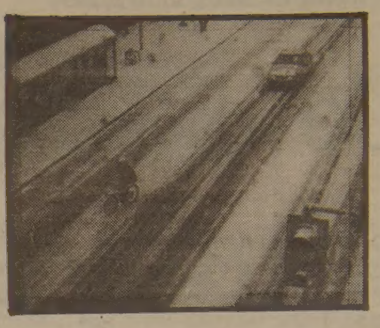


Carrey great in Liar Liar, page 18

Photo contest winners, pages 12, 13



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NIAGARA NEWS

VOLUME 27 NO. 15 —FREE— APRIL 4, 1997

YUK YUK'S Offers Students & Alumni Comedy Relief *(see pages. 5, 17 & 19)*

NIAGARA COLLEGE of Applied Arts and Technology WELLAND CAMPUS LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

And the winners are...

Ian Hennessy (left), chair of the Niagara College Board of Governors, presents Mike Harris, 21, a second-year Business-Retail Management program student, with the male athlete of the year award, as Niagara College President Dan Patterson and John Mastroianni, Welland councillor and vice-mayor, look on. Inset: Kerby Bently, male freshman athlete of the year, and Andrea Flindall, female freshman athlete of the year, hold their awards. See Page 16 for story and additional photos.

Photos by Dan Dakin

Manager on call 24 hours a day

By RACHEL MATHEWS
Staff Writer

The student residence has a manager with college connections.

Derek Wills, 29, of Welland, an employee of Campus Living Centres Incorporation, is the new manager of the Welland campus centre.

Wills, a former Niagara student, has returned to the college to manage the new campus residence opening in the fall. He is working for Campus Living Centres Inc., the company hired by the college to manage the new residence.

"The building is to be completed in August, but will not be ready for the students until the weekend prior to classes," Wills said.

As the new residence manager, Wills said he will be "on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

He said the job leaves him with little time for his wife and daughter. "It affects my personal life all the time," he said.

Still, he remains devoted to his job. "I hope to maintain regular working hours, but will be available at anytime if needed."

Wills said he hopes the new residence "will make the college more attractive. Many people base their schooling decisions on their living arrangements."

He said he feels "the residence will help create a stronger community within the college."

Being a former student, Wills was attracted to the college by its Human Resource program. "I attended the college for one year," he said.

In that time he took courses to augment his membership in the Human Resource Professionals Association of Ontario.

Wills has a bachelor of arts in political science from Brock University in St. Catharines.

He can be found in his office in the Counselling department. He said he is more than willing "to help with any housing problems."

Those interested in more information on the new residence can telephone Wills at Ext. 7390. The website is at http://www3.sympatico.ca/campus/niagrez.htm or E-mail: residence@niagara.on.ca

Massage therapist on the way

Fulfilling college nurse's dream could come at a price

By PAUL BASWICK
Staff Writer

Bring on the backrubs.

An on-campus massage therapist could soon be coming to the Health Centre at Niagara College's Welland campus.

Carolyn Hurst, nurse at the centre, says she hopes massage therapy will be available to students and faculty for the coming school year.

"We're suggesting that a therapist might be looked at to use the centre at lunch time and after school for an hour," she says.

Hurst says massage therapy is an "alternative kind of therapy that helps reduce stress."

Fulfilling Hurst's "dream" of on-campus massage therapy would, of course, come at a price.

"It's costly," she says. "Some therapists can charge $50 per hour; some can charge $100 per hour. We're negotiating that the price will still be reasonable for students."

Massage therapy would follow earlier initiatives by Hurst to help students cope with stress.

"This year we've started a quiet room," she says. "If you need to get yourself unwound, it's one of the quietest places in the college."

She says sitting alone in the "quiet room" with an ice pack for 15 minutes can be more effective for a headache than Aspirin, which is available at the centre.

Of her six years at the centre, Hurst says, there have been "no two days alike."

(Continued on page 3)

University not enough, college 'more practical'

By BRENDA BEAVEN
Staff Writer

Everyone gets 15 minutes of fame and Thom Seible got his on March 26.

Seible, a 26-year-old Interactive Multimedia program student and a Business Administration graduate from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ont., was interviewed by Mike Prokoper of the CBC National news.

The interview was expected to air on March 28 and would have been seen by about a million people. Prokoper interviewed four students and only showed two. Unfortunately, Seible's interview ended on the editing room floor.

The purpose of the interview was to compare university education to college, said Prokoper.

"University is not enough anymore . . . and college is more practical," Prokoper said.

The CBC was looking for university graduates who returned to college and Seible fell under the criteria.

It took three years to decide to go back to college, Seible said. He said he chose Niagara

(Continued on page 3)

INDEX

The Learner's World ..... Pg. 4
Sports ..... Pg. 16
CD Reviews ..... Pg. 18

Co-op students start placement in May

By MINAKO YAMAGUCHI
Staff Writer

At the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls, Tourism-Tours and Attraction program students will start their co-op experience in May.

"I'll be a general manager of a Japanese and Korean restaurant in Barrie," says Hak Kyu Kim, 32, of South Korea, a second-year tourism student. "I learned something new or exciting, and I really enjoyed school life."

Kim says since he came to Canada for sightseeing in 1994 he has never gone back to Korea because he was "attracted" by Canada.

"I was sick of city life in Korea. In Canada, there is not much pollution and crime, and people are kind."

Then, he decided to "challenge" his new life and called his wife and son to live with him in Canada.

Kim studied the English as a Second Language (ESL) program at Niagara College for one year and entered the tourism program in 1995. "I chose this program because tourism is very interesting and the biggest industry in Niagara Falls."

Kim says it was difficult to communicate with Canadian people in English. "I think my English skill has improved and I have learned a lot about geography, accounting and essential skills for tourism."

Kim says the Maid of the Mist Centre is "pretty good" because there are so few programs. "It's like a family, so we got to know each other very well, and the teachers are enthusiastic and excellent.

"I would like to get more experience, such as management and sales, in order to take care of my family and keep them happy and healthy."

Kim says, in time, he and his family, including his six-month-old baby girl, will apply to be permanent residents of Canada because they "love" this country.

"I'm really excited about working at a hotel this summer," says Keiko Umemoto, 21, of Japan, a second-year tourism student, who will work in the guest relations department at the Renaissance Hotel Fallsview in Niagara Falls.

Umemoto came to Canada in 1993 and went to high school in Rimouski, Que., for one year as an exchange student.

She says she really enjoyed living in Quebec. "Everything was new to me, and the language was totally different."

She says it was "really hard" to learn French because she lacked a background in French, and grammar and pronunciation were difficult.

In 1995, Umemoto returned to Canada to attend the ESL program at Niagara College, which has "good" hospitality programs. She says she likes the tourism program, especially tour planning.

"It was very interesting. I made a brochure and itinerary of a five-day trip to Nova Scotia, calculated all expenses and the distance of routes, and found all attractions, festivals and hotels. I don't know how much time I spent, but it is my most favorite subject."

In 1996, Umemoto volunteered to work at the Sheraton Hotel in Niagara Falls for three months. She says she learned a lot about the area and how hotels work.

"As a hotel clerk, you must accommodate people, be willing to help them and have enough infomation to tell customers," she says.

Umemoto says there are many places she "must go" to see differences between countries and gain knowledge.

"I never know where I will live next," says Umemoto, adding she would like to go to Africa to see the wildlife and observe people because it's "just totally different from any other places and not made for tourists."

Kim and Umemoto say the Maid of the Mist Centre should have better facilities soon, such as the Internet, because "the tourism industry is always changing."

Hak Kyu Kim, left, of Korea, and Keiko Umemoto, of Japan, will start co-op after completing their studies. Kim will be a general manager of a Japanese and Korean restaurant in Barrie, Ont., and Umemoto will work at the Renaissance Hotel Fallsview in Niagara Falls.

Photo by Minako Yamaguchi

Christian group starting up at Niagara College

By TINEKE BRUINSMA
Staff Writer

Christians have a group of their own at Niagara College.

Word of God, a Christian group, meets each Thursday at the college's Welland campus at 12:30 p.m. for one to two hours in the Merritt building.

Each meeting opens with a prayer and consists of a Bible reading and study.

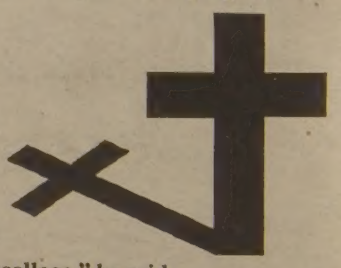
Participation ranges from 10 to 15 members "depending on the workload of individual students," said Dan Adams, 19, of Kingston.

Adams, a first-year Broadcasting-Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program student and the group's president, says, "This group offers a time for fellowship."

"We're just a big support group," said Tina Elliott, 19, of Stoney Creek, a first-year BRTF program student.

This year the group decided to change its name from Niagara College's Christian Fellowship group to the Word of God group.

Justin Wood, 25, of Niagara Falls, is past president. He is a first-year Electronics Engineering Technology program student. "New people come in each year due to the length of the programs at the college," he said.



The college has offered the members of the group an opportunity to express their beliefs. At the college's Sexual Awareness Week in March, the group sponsored a table in the Simcoe building to express the group's views on premarital sex.

The members of the group are "happy" to express their beliefs and are willing to help anyone they can, but they are not out to convert people to become Christians, said Colleen Hoover, 20, of Waterford, Ont., a first-year Business Administration Co-op program student.

"Everything we do impacts someone else," said Hoover.

NIAGARA COLLEGE PARKING PASS SCAM

THEFT and FRAUDULENT claims of parking pass THEFTS have become a problem at Niagara College.
In light of numerous false claims the implementation of a Full Replacement Fee is under review.

WARNING TO STUDENTS:

THEFT and FRAUD are both CRIMINAL OFFENCES.
If caught, the police are called and you may be CHARGED!

This announcement is part of a group project by LASA students in the Community Policing course.

Smokers at Niagara asked to butt out

By ALEX HALMAI
Staff Writer

Smokers at Niagara College have been asked not to smoke at two outdoor Welland campus locations.

The Simcoe entrance at the far west end of the college and the entrance directly beside the health ramp facing the main front parking lot are the two designated outdoor smoke-free areas.

The decision came as a response to some "concerns by students who suffer from severe cigarette smoke-related allergies," said college Carolyn Hurst, the college nurse.

The entrances have been designated as smoke-free for more than a year. However, "some students have ignored or defaced the signs in the past," said Hurst.

New signs have been put up at both locations.

Hurst is asking those who smoke near those areas to have "consideration and respect" for those who can't tolerate the smoke.

'It's so easy not to think about doing such a little thing to make someone's day better.'
— Carolyn Hurst

"It's so easy not to think about doing such a little thing to make someone's day better," said Hurst.

The other eight of the college's 10 entrances permit smoking.

CAMERA'S EYE

BRTF students producing live cable show

By DAVE BARNHARDT
Staff Writer

Second-year students in the Broadcasting-Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program at Niagara College have been working especially hard these past two months.

In co-operation with Rogers Community 10 Niagara, BRTF students have been producing a weekly news and information show called Inside Niagara. The live, 30-minute show provides news, sports and three- to five-minute feature stories on a wide range of topics. The show airs Thursdays at noon and is replayed on Thursday and Saturday evenings at 6:30.

Tom Pagonis, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, is a professor in the BRTF program and is executive producer of Inside Niagara. He has been at the college for 25 years and has worked on the show for eight years.

Pagonis said in the show's 20 years of production, it has been refined and has undergone several name changes. He said because the show is "student-driven," many of the decisions are left up to the students to give the show the look they want.

"We try not to interfere too much," said Pagonis.

He said he tells his students to "never sell (themselves) short" and to learn all facets of the job. All aspects of the show including story writing, shooting, editing and directing are handled entirely by students. Those students who selected the presentation option for their second year appear on-air and write their own stories.

Pagonis said the show is oriented towards those in the Niagara region and the students of Niagara College, but the show is not intended to compete with broadcasters.

"If anybody wants to see NHL scores, they can turn on Global or (one of the) Buffalo stations."

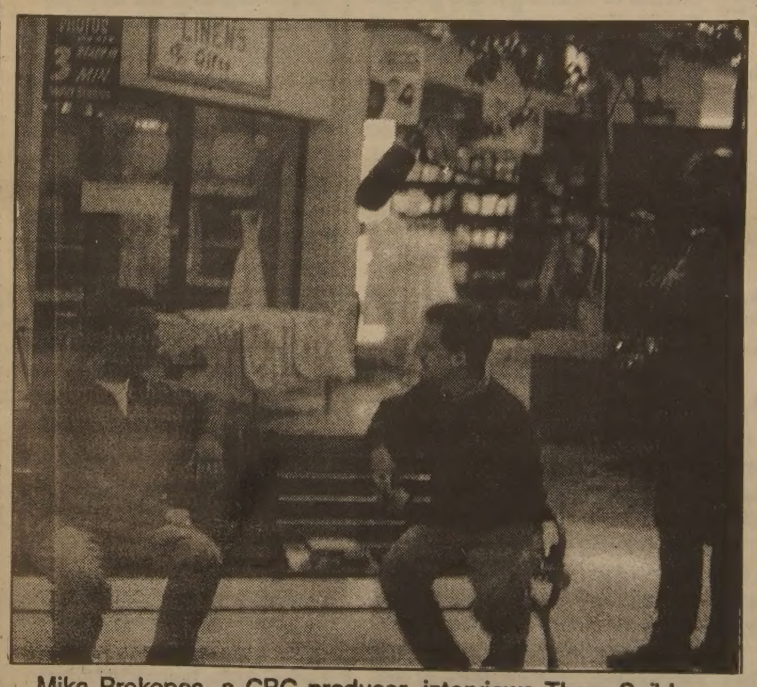
With the guidance of Pagonis, the students dedicate the entire semester to the show, switching jobs every week. For the debut telecast of the show on Feb. 13, Andrew Barnhardt, 20, of Fort Erie, was named the producer. This semester, Barnhardt has also filled the roles of VTR operator, cameraman and technical director.

Barnhardt said he enjoys working on feature stories. He said the favorite story he worked on this year was a feature on Niagara Greyhound Adoption Inc. It is an adoption agency for former racing greyhound dogs. In the story, he talked to the two owners of the non-profit organization. He also interviewed a person who had adopted a greyhound.

"Being producer was the most challenging job," said Barnhardt. "Bringing together the whole show is a lot of work."

Anchors Jak Priftis (far left) and Adam Mair are deep in thought while Kevin Gibson (second from right) and Corey Kennedy keep a watchful eye from behind the cameras.
Photo by Dave Barnhardt

'Right move with college,' says Seible



Mike Prokopec, a CBC producer, interviews Thom Seible, Interactive Multimedia Post-diploma program student, while Kieth Bonnell, sound recordist, holds a boom microphone.
Photo by Dan Dakin

(Continued from page 1)

College because it offered the Interactive Multimedia program and is close to home.

During the three years Seible was out of school, he said, he looked "off and on" for work, but could only find temporary employment lasting for about six months.

"I made the right move with college . . . finally I'm doing something I enjoy and it also shows a lot of promise for employment prospects," he said.

Dave Robinson, co-ordinator for the Interactive Multimedia program, said, "It is good exposure for the program . . . and will attract a good quality of grads and people to the program."

As for the future of the program, it can only "grow" from here, said Robinson.

Students in the program bring a wide range of specialty backgrounds to the program, from broadcasting and fine arts to computer programming.

They all work together as a unit to finish projects, said Robinson.

The program recently signed a six-month contract for the Niagara Gateway project.

Robinson said this project will give 10 graduates full-time jobs and "real world experience." The project is made up of 500 interactive screens, integrated video, audio, animation and graphics representing 25 hours of interactive use.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson said in a recent article from In Touch magazine published in April, "This program gives new meaning to being an enterprising college . . . what a wonderful example of education and economic development . . ."

Backrubs coming

(Continued from page 1)

"We do emergencies; we do small things. We deal with people who are suicidal, and we deal with people who just need a sliver taken out."

Hurst says the centre is as valuable in educating people as it is in treating them.

"You can go into a walk-in clinic, but very seldom do you walk out having learned how to prevent problems you might be having.

An important part of her job, she says, is "educating people about their bodies."

Hurst says education includes making students and faculty aware the centre is available to them.

"I wish I could find a way to let people know where we are," she says. "I've had people in three-year business programs come down here in their last year and say, 'you know, I've been coming here for three years and I never knew you were here.'"

The Welland campus Health Centre is in Lundy 20.

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THE LEARNER'S WORLD

Job still satisfying after 2 decades

By JEANNIE ORBAN
Staff Writer

After two decades as co-ordinator of the Legal Assistant program, the job still fascinates her.

"I've never regretted it. I love doing what I do," said Patricia Drozdoski, of Fonthill.

Drozdoski said she likes Niagara College because the administration has been "really good" and "supportive" of anything she wanted to try. She said she'd be hesitant to start teaching at a different college.

She likes teaching because she has "always liked working with young adults" and it is "very gratifying."

Drozdoski, who practices general law emphasizing real estate, graduated from Osgoode Hall Law School, now York University, in Toronto, in 1968.

She articled, wrote her exams and in 1970 was called to the legal bar.

In a class of about 150 students, Drozdoski was one of five women.

She said her male classmates didn't totally accept her or the other women, but "the professors were excellent." Now, she said classes have equal numbers of male and female students.

The law firm Drozdoski worked for after graduation wanted her to specialize in family law.

She said, "I'd have male clients who'd think I'd be great because I'd really show their wives, and then I'd have female clients who'd think I'd be great because I'd be really sympathetic to them."

Her tenure at the college began when she answered an advertisement in The Globe and Mail for the co-ordinator's position. She had decided being a sole legal practitioner wasn't for her. Working for a legal firm also wasn't appealing.

Her husband, a dentist, had established a new practice in St. Catharines.

Drozdoski and her husband have been married for 32 years and have three children.

One of her first-year Legal Assistant students, Anita Hughes, 38, said Drozdoski "cares about her students, (and) she wants them to understand what they are learning."

Hughes said, "Mrs. D. (Drozdoski) makes real estate very interesting."

Special needs aims at equality

By CARRIE WHITE
Staff Writer

The Special Needs Office at Niagara College is aimed at helping qualified individuals with special needs to receive equal opportunities and to demonstrate their academic competence.

In the words of Gilles Prescott, co-ordinator of the Special Needs Office, "that's our mission statement."

Prescott, 42, of Welland, graduated from McGill University with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in educational psychology.

He came to Welland 14 years ago where he worked at the Welland County Roman Catholic Separate School Board, and then came here to teach psychology.

Prescott works in the Special Needs Office as a registered psychological associate and as co-ordinator.

He says Special Needs offices have not always been available in colleges and universities.

'Anyone that has a disability is eligible to receive service from our office.'
— Gilles Prescott

These offices were implemented into the schools nine or 10 years ago, he says.

"Anyone that has a disability (documented) is eligible to receive service from our office."

He says these disabilities must be confirmed by a doctor, psychologist or psychiatrist.

He defines these disabilities as learning disabilities, which can range from dyslexia, language problems, spelling, grammar or even major math problems.

He says these problems (like severe math difficulties) are usually in their department because the student's program diploma may be in jeopardy.

Prescott says mobility impairments, physical impairments (like heart disease), visual impairments (any kind detrimental to the student's schooling), hearing impairments, chronic health problems, and social and emotional conditions all qualify as forms of disabilities.

'We try to make the atmosphere as professional as possible, but we like to be as welcoming as possible.'
—Gilles Prescott

He says because many of these cases need to be assessed, "I'm a registered psychological associate so I do some of the assessment here."

Prescott says working in the Special Needs office is like any job with pressure.

"It's difficult to meet everyone's needs, but we usually end up providing everyone with what they need."

He says although the office is ready to help, "students have some responsibility" in keeping up their school work and obtaining help when they need it.

Prescott says it has been a "difficult time with funding cuts" and although these cuts have had an impact on everyone, "you have to disconnect your professional life from your personal life.

"We try to make the atmosphere as professional as possible, but we like to be as welcoming as possible."

He says the Special Needs office has "a fairly good connection with the college community. We have a very good location that's easy to spot."

During the summer, Prescott says the office will be busy getting ready for the start of term in September and interviewing next year's students.

"Right now what we're gearing up for is the end of term."

End of term exams are quickly approaching and the office staff is trying to "help students finish on the right note," he says.

Job 'very exciting,' says associate registrar

By CRYSTAL OLDER
Staff Writer

Long lines and late appointments are not unfamiliar to students at Niagara College who have applied for student loans.

Elaine Grandmaison, 54, of Welland, associate registrar of admissions and financial aid, says "approximately 55 to 60 per cent of the full-time student population apply for OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance program)."

Prior to being associate registrar of admissions and financial aid, Grandmaison was the office manager of the Continuing Education Department and a financial aid officer.

"I always wanted to do more, evolve, and develop more skills," she says.

"This is a very exciting and extremely challenging place to work. It's different everyday."

Grandmaison says her job is more than seven hours a day and 35 hours a week.

"During the first three weeks of September, the Financial Aid office is the busiest, but there are different kinds of busy," she says.

"The first three weeks of school you (students) must come early to get an appointment slip for that day," says Grandmaison.

"The OSAP distribution is an efficient and timely process. The students are very appreciative though. They are patient when it comes to lines, appeals and the financial aid process."

She walks the hall outside of the Financial Aid office during this time to guide anyone who needs help.

"The most intense times for the OSAP process are during the months of June, July, and August. That is when we are trying to ensure the loans will be available in time for commencement of classes," says Grandmaison.

Grandmaison graduated from the Adult Business program at the college prior to taking university courses. She has worked full-time at the college for 23 years.

Librarian puts 'students first'

By KERRI WOOD
Staff Writer

A full-time staff member at Niagara College's Learning Resource Centre (LRC) in Welland is doing what she has always wanted to do.

Trish Labonte, 47, of Pelham, is the head librarian at Niagara College, where she has worked for 11 years.

She is responsible for administering all of the college's libraries. She sets plans, directions, and is responsible for administering the budget.

Before joining the college, Labonte was employed at Cominco, a mining company in Vancouver, B.C., for four years. She also worked at the British Columbia Institute of Technology for eight years.

Labonte studied at Brock University in St. Catharines for her undergraduate degree in geological sciences.

She says she loves "working full time at the college." She says it is the perfect mix of being involved with different people.

"I like to assist people interested in learning . . . I love it," she says. "I really like the students."

She says she enjoys the opportunity to work with students and to contribute to the educational process mixing the "people side" with the planning and administering side.

She works 35 hours a week but sometimes works late nights when the LRC is understaffed.

When she isn't too busy at the college, she can sometimes find the time to take courses upgrading her knowledge and skills. She is finishing her Master of Education degree in adult learning and learning organizations.

She works well, meeting the teachers' needs, says Dale Zinatelli, library technician at the LRC. "I think that she is doing a great job, doing the best job with the budget. She puts the students first."

A business nose knows

By PAUL BASWICK
Staff Writer

Steve Stunt has helped his community by sticking his nose in other people's business.

Stunt is the business consultant at Niagara College's Innovation Centre at the college's St. Catharines campus. In his three years at the centre, he has played a part in the creation of nearly 300 small businesses in the Niagara Region.

"Our role here is to assist individuals in starting their own businesses," says Stunt. "We consult in marketing, financial planning, human resources — all the areas that would encompass a small business."

Stunt consults monthly with local entrepreneurs, working with them to help them meet the challenges of their respective industries.

He says although the problems of each client "are unique," the biggest difficulty with any business is getting past the planning stage.

"The challenge is trying to get an individual's motivation to a level where his goal is achievable. It was a dream, an idea. Now we're going to take that idea and make it real; that's the real challenge."

Stunt has achieved success in the business community outside of Niagara College. He worked in marketing for the Toronto Blue Jays for six years, and helped establish the Blue Jays' farm team in St. Catharines in 1986. He also serves as the public relations chairman for the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival.

In addition to his work at the Innovation Centre, Stunt teaches entrepreneurship in the Environmental Post-diploma program at the St. Catharines campus, and teaches in the Public Relations Post-diploma program at the Welland campus.

'Our role here is to assist individuals in starting their own business.'
— Steve Stunt

In his role as a business consultant, Stunt says he has had to cope with "disappointing cutbacks" to the Innovation Centre. The New Venture Loan Program, a course which taught prospective business owners the ins and outs of running a small business, was cut by the college last year.

Stunt says the program's termination reveals a truth about the business world.

"Just when you thing things are great, something can change. I guess one thing that's certain is change will always happen. So we just have to deal with it and look for the next unturned stone."

College day care helps 21-year-old mother

By PAUL BASWICK
Staff Writer

Elisha Fleet hasn't bothered with homework, tests or studying since she started coming to Niagara College eight months ago.

Like any of her playmates at the Niagara College Child Care Centre, two-year-old Elisha can afford not to.

Her mother, 21-year-old Cathy Fleet, doesn't have that luxury. The first-year Dental Assistant program student, and mothers like her, must respond to the demands of post-secondary education and parenthood.

Fleet is one of nearly 50 Niagara College students who have enrolled their children in the college's day-care program, located west of Hennepin Hall on the Welland campus.

'I didn't accept my position until I knew the kids were able to get into the day care.'
— Paula Dempsey

She says the "convenience" of having day care at school has helped in balancing her roles as student and mother.

For Paula Dempsey, a third-year Human Resources Management program student from Welland, on-campus day-care facilities for her two daughters are more a necessity than a convenience.

"When I originally came (to the college)," Dempsey says, "I didn't accept my position in the program until I knew the kids were able to get into the day care."

Kathleen Brown, 24, is a second-year student in the Early Childhood Education program. The accessibility of on-campus child care also played heavily in her choice of colleges.

"I think it's one of the most important things," she says. "The only other (day-care centre) that's really good is on the other side of town. It would take an hour, almost,

'They take the whole aspect of the child: emotionally, socially, intellectually.'
— Kathleen Brown

by the time I take three buses to get from there to the school."

Brown says she is as happy with the day care's operation as she is

Predictably, having to answer the demands of schoolwork and a four-year-old daughter hasn't left Brown with much time for herself.

"I'd like to have more time," she says, "although when I was a full-time student it was a lot harder. Now I'm just taking a few courses to lessen the load a bit, so now it's a little better."
with its location.

"I think it's excellent," Brown says. "They're really structured. They really take time to teach the kids things. They take the whole aspect of the child: emotionally, socially, intellectually."

ESL students make Easter happier for children

Many of the students have never celebrated Easter themselves

By MINAKO YAMAGUCHI
Staff Writer

Some lucky children in Welland received handmade Easter baskets this year, thanks to students from the International Department at Niagara College.

Students in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program made baskets with stuffed bunnies, chocolates and Easter cards in their cultural adaptation class.

The students wanted to do something for the community, so Donna Grant, an ESL teacher, contacted the Community Resource and Action Centre, in Holy Trinity Anglican Church at 77 Division St., in Welland. The volunteers at the centre serve lunch or dinner to people who are suffering in the current economic climate.

Doreen Orsini, the kitchen co-

'They were very enthusiastic about this...'
— Donna Grant

ordinator, eagerly accepted the offer.

Susan Vandenboom, the ESL co-ordinator, and Hee Sung Kim, an ESL student from South Korea, delivered the baskets on March 26.

Grant says some ESL students had never made Easter baskets because they don't celebrate Easter in their countries. "They were very enthusiastic about this and I think they did a really good job," says Grant.

Orsini says 40 to 50 people come to the church everyday to have lunch. "On special events like Easter, I think about 70 people come."

The centre also helps people find a place to live. "If it's an emergency, we offer them a place to stay overnight," says Orsini.

Kim was surprised poverty is such a problem in Canada.

"I saw many poor people in my hometown a few years ago," says Kim, adding "I hope the children will have good education in the future in order not to repeat their terrible life again."

However, even well-educated people have been cut off in Ontario because of the provincial deficit.

"I think poverty can happen to anybody. This is unpredictable," says Grant, adding the community should support these people more.

Yuk Yuk's will host day care fund-raiser

By SHARON WHALING
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Child Care Centre is hosting a Yuk Yuk's Comedy Fund-raiser on Friday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m.

"It's a good evening and a lot of fun," says Pat Eversden, manager of the Child Care Centre at the Welland campus.

Tickets cost $10 and can be purchased from Eversden at the Centre. Yuk Yuk's Comedy Club is on Oakes Drive in Niagara Falls, Ont.

Proceeds from the event go back into the Child Care Centre, says Eversden.

Money raised will be used to purchase toys and equipment for the centre's playground.

"It is open to students, parents, teachers, anyone," says Eversden.

The evening will include mature comedy with two qualified stand-up comedians and a master of ceremonies. Yuk Yuk's is internationally recognized as the largest chain of comedy clubs. The club regularly holds fund-raising events for different organizations.

The Child Care Centre was built for 85 children including infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. At present, 72 children are enrolled part time and full time at the centre.

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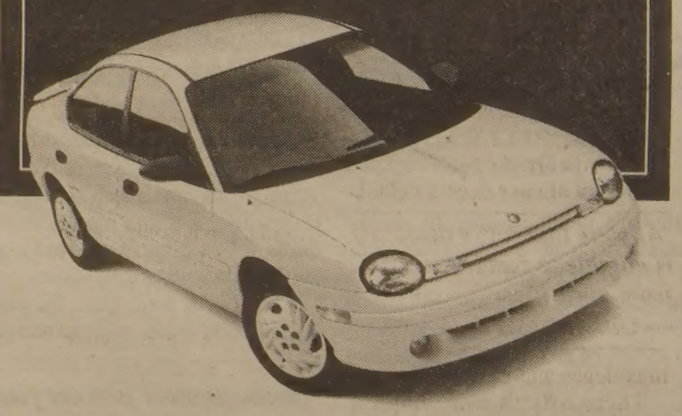

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Influenced by boy's death

By JEANNIE ORBAN
Staff Writer

Several years ago in Kingston, Ont., a young boy died after having a seizure. The paramedic says no one in the boy's home knew CPR or thought quickly enough to call 911.

This influenced Scott Howard, 33, of Welland, a level one (of three levels) paramedic to start teaching CPR and first aid. Howard says "less than 20 per cent of the population knows CPR or first aid."

He teaches three or four courses a month, about 30 hours a week, at **Vital Link**, a CPR and first-aid training service.

Howard says his training sessions are "laid-back" and if the trainees are not laughing within 10 minutes, then he is "doing something wrong."

He says "a lot of people when they take CPR or first aid get a little bit of tunnel vision and it's anything but that (narrow-minded or strict). It's total creativity because not every call is the same."

Howard says Vital Link has the least expensive courses in the area with prices ranging from $25 to $80.

He says trauma cases are his favorite calls because it "taxes all my resources."

Howard says his least favorite are the domestic disputes because of "environmental hazards" and because the paramedics don't know what will happen. "Unfortunately there are a number of ambulance officers that are injured or killed every year."

Howard graduated from Niagara College's Ambulance and Emergency Care program in 1993 in the top two per cent of his class.

He says he came to Niagara College from Kingston because of the college's "excellent reputation."

It took him about two years to find a job in his field because of a hiring freeze by the provincial government. He then got a job in Dunnville, where there is only one ambulance for 1,600-square kilometres.

Howard says he gets "a nice feeling" when he gets a letter or a telephone call from those he has trained who have used the training to save a life.

"I want to know if I'm making a difference in someone's life because that's what I want to do."

Class 'broadens' his knowledge

By KEVIN MCKEE
Staff Writer

Look in the dictionary under persistent, and you might find a photograph of Joel Newhouse.

Newhouse, 22, of St. Catharines, works for the Canadian Shipbuilding and Engineering company (CSE).

He has been taking precision measurement through the Continuing Education program at Niagara College at night since September 1996.

"The class broadens my technical knowledge," he said.

Newhouse said the class helps him when ordering parts for repairs on the boats. CSE repairs and builds boats that travel the Great Lakes.

"I have to take a few other classes," he said, adding he must take production management and statistical process control.

"CSE will give me more responsibility and a possible promotion."

He said his goal is to become quality-system control manager.

Newhouse said prospects look good for the company.

"They made a lot of boats and now their life is coming to an end," he said, adding new boats have to be built and old ones need to be repaired.

He has been with the company about two years.

He said he started at the bottom delivering time-cards and picking up packages. "Everything has a beginning, so you have to start somewhere."

The company pays for his tuition, but the cost of books comes out of his pocket.

"I like night school at the college. It's casual. You can have a real conversation with the teacher."

College student finds law 'interesting, intriguing'

By JENNIFER COTE
Staff Writer

Nicole Kalka has always been interested in the variety of subjects that studying law allows.

For this 22-year-old from Acton, Ont., taking Niagara College's Legal Assistant (Co-Op) program was a logical beginning to getting the career she had always wanted.

"I think law is interesting, intriguing," Kalka said. "It's a Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. job and that's what I want."

In her second year of the program, Kalka has just finished an eight-month long co-op at an area law office.

She said she credits Niagara College for having "the best" Legal Assistant program that allows its students the opportunity to gain experience in a co-operative setting.

"Not all (college) programs have a co-op, so there is no way to get experience," Kalka said.

She said her co-op placement was "good," and she got "a little bit of experience in each area (of law)."

Although Kalka said her placement was an "overall good experience," she feels the school's co-op office was "completely and utterly useless" in helping her find a co-op placement.

'I think law is interesting, intriguing.'
— Kalka

"The people that work there (in the co-op office) are nice enough," she said, "but as far as going to say they helped me get my placement? I think not. I got my placement through a friend."

Kalka said she has no plans right now to continue with her education in law and become a lawyer, but does not rule it out for the future.

"I was thinking about it," she said, "but I think I want to wait awhile before I even attempt to do that."

Kalka does have high praise for her instructors, especially "Mrs. D." known as Patricia Drozdoski, the program's co-ordinator.

"Mrs. D. has always been my No. 1 teacher," Kalka said.

Kalka's plans after graduation include mailing the resumes she has already prepared. She said she is going to "keep in touch" with her co-op placement as the co-op officials have recommended.

Kalka said she is sending resumes to law firms in Guelph, Brampton, Mississauga and Georgetown, but none to her hometown of Acton.

"There are only two or three law offices (in Acton)," Kalka said.

Students getting ready for co-op

By MICHELLE ADEY
Staff Writer

May, for many Niagara College students, means summer break. For others, it means a co-op placement.

Niagara College offers a resourceful Co-operative Education employment office equipped with a variety of materials for the student seeking co-op employment. Professional consultants work closely with employers and students to offer a wide range of co-op placements and to serve students' employment-related needs.

Wayne Sadlak, 33, of St. Catharines, is one of the college's co-operative education consultant employment service workers. After working 6 1/2 years in the Youth Employment Services department, Sadlak moved to his current post where he has been working for 4 1/2 years.

Sadlak said his many experiences with employers and students helped him understand their needs. "I usually deal with employers, but I have also dealt with students, mostly ages 16 to 25, which I found quite helpful," he said.

Each year about 1,300 students are enrolled in a co-operative program. From January until May, the co-op office is a busy place with students looking for work and consultants recruiting employers.

"This is a bad time of year because it is so busy due to recruiting," said Sadlak. "But I enjoy my work."

'The majority of jobs are found in the Niagara peninsula . . .'

— Wayne Sadlak

The department offers many services to the student. Consultants are ready to assist students with resume tips, interview skills and a career planning and development course offered at the beginning of second year. All students looking for work have access to the telephone, fax machines and photocopiers in the co-op office. However, only students enrolled in a co-op program have access to the co-op binders.

A non-refundable co-op fee of $330 is paid by each student for each year enrolled in a co-operative studies program. The fee is divided into five areas: resources, materials and administration (6 per cent), individual career planning (26 per cent), course delivery (8 per cent), job development (45 per cent) and work placement monitoring (15 per cent).

As part of the fee, consultants will mediate between employers and co-op students when necessary, monitor students at the workplace and maintain student and employer files.

"If any problems arise between the student and employer we will step in as a third party and give any guidance needed in the situation," Sadlak said.

Consultants spend a lot of time recruiting local and international work for students.

"The majority of jobs are found in the Niagara peninsula which are usually taken by limited students, but there is also the chance for international work such as in Great Britain," he said.

Student 'proud' of her mother

By KATHLEEN McARTHUR
Staff Writer

New respect and understanding result when a parent returns to the same school her child attends.

Niagara College Human Relations studen, Jodi Ker, 19, said she is "proud" of her mother who is studying in the Educational Resources and Special Needs (ERSN) program.

However, she said she found it awkward at the beginning of the year. "Now it is part of what she does, who she is."

Ker says she sympathizes with her mother, Margret (Marg) Breton, 39, when it comes time for school and homework.

Breton says she doesn't see much of her daughter "during the run of the day." Understanding the demands of the course load and the timeframe for homework "creates a mutual respect" for each other.

Breton said ERSN is "well organized . . . all the classes and terms seem to blend together, without jumping around."

With the college practically in her backyard, Breton said she likes to "slip away for a quiet lunch or study break." She said, "(I need) the peace to recharge the batteries."

Asked what she dislikes about the program, she said, "They strip you for the (cost of) books."

Bundling up for her class, she added another dislike: "Walking to Mackenzie (building) and back in the cold for one class. I don't like Mondays."

Of her own program, the Welland resident said, "The teachers take time for one-on-one if you need it. Beverly Brown (program co-ordinator) is accessible and helpful."

One thing she'd like to see is "more specialized classes geared to the program." She said, "Courses cover general areas of topics, and you can see how it applies to actual life."

After talking to her mother and others in ERSN, Ker said, she'll be registering for it in September.

Students to choose courses

By ANDREW HALL
Staff Writer

Students at Niagara College may soon be given a new freedom when it comes to course selection.

A recent plan by the college administration to alter the current program format will be started at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

The plan is simple. At present, students register in a program and receive their timetables detailing what classes they must attend with an elective chosen by the student. These classes must be completed to graduate.

In the new plan, students will be given a series of 16 classes they are required to take. These classes will directly relate to their chosen program. Next, the student will choose eight additional courses they want to take. They will pay per course. In theory, a student enrolled in the Law and Security Administration program could take English for Journalism if they so wished.

Marie Rennie, of St. Catharines, program co-ordinator for tourism at the Maid Of The Mist Centre, praises the proposed course changes.

"It's very avant guard. I think it will be a positive change. It will give the student more flexibility. I'm looking forward to it," she said.

Bruce McNiven is a tourism teacher at the Maid of the Mist Centre.

He said the changes in registration will provide "more transfer of credit," referring to the barriers that separate college and university registration processes. "I like a student having more say in their education," he said.

Dawn Mckee, 23, of Welland, is a student in the Construction and Engineering program.

"I think the plan would be good if you only wanted take courses that directly dealt with your course, instead of electives," she said. "In my course, we needed everything we were required to learn so that system would not help me any."

The plan will be phased in during the second term next September at the Niagara Falls campus, said David Taylor, director of Hospitality and Tourism at the Maid of the Mist Centre.

Clownin' around at the Seaway Mall

On March 29, this happy clown was giving out balloons to children at Seaway Mall on behalf of Easter Seals, which was holding a fund-raising event to benefit handicapped children.
Photo by Jeannie Orban

Computer student has drive for success

By MICHELLE ADEY
Staff Writer

Want a challenge in the 1990s? Why not start a business.

Jonathan Carney, 21, of St. Catharines, a second-year Computer Programmer Analyst program student at Niagara College, took his first steps in the business world when he co-founded a computer company with his father, Paul Carney, 48, of St. Catharines.

TABO Software Incorporated is a computer business which sells hardware and specializes in custom software and point of sale (POS) programs.

Duties within the company are distributed between the owners and two employees.

"My dad is the president who oversees most of the software operations and contacts and as vice-president I look after the accounting, selling of hardware and POS projects," said Carney.

The company employs part-time programmers Rob Peter, 29, and Corey Haecker, 21, both of St. Catharines, who share the responsibility of programming software within the company.

Carney said establishing the company did not take a long time because his father had some connections.

"It was fairly easy to set up the company because my dad already owns a company called Vend Plus and was already developing software prior to our company. The difficult part was obtaining distributers for selling hardware."

Carney said he decided to open a computer business because "the future is in computers, although there is not much money to be made selling hardware since there are many computer retailers who are competing for the same customers.

"However, producing software is more promising. You just have to make yourself available to customers."

Most new companies are in business for a while before any profits are made and TABO is no exception.

"It has not really paid off yet," said Carney. "You never reap any immediate benefits because it takes a while to establish a customer base."

"Last week our homepage went on the Net. It is not completely finished, but customers can check out the price list, learn about the company and even place an order online," Carney said.

As TABO grows Carney said he hopes to hire more employees. "Hopefully the company will grow and we can hire more people and even take on co-op students."

Throughout the year specials are offered on complete desktop and customer systems. It is the distributers who decide when a special is going to be offered to the public. "When the distributer announces a special we print up a flyer announcing the prices and distribute it," said Carney.

Distributing flyers is not the only form of advertising the company uses. TABO has its own homepage on the World Wide Web at www.niagara.com/~tabo.

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EDITORIALS

NIAGARA NEWS

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Ontario L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211/ 688-1380/ 382-2383/ FAX (905) 735-7669.

Editor: Dave Barnhardt, **Associate Editor:** Michelle Adey, **Assistant Editor:** Dan Dakin, **Publisher:** Leo Tiberi, director Information and Computer Technology, **Managing Editor:** Phyllis Barnatt, co-ordinator Journalism-Print program, **Associate Managing Editor:** Gary Erb, instructor Journalism-Print program, **Advertising Managers:** Karen Audet, Ron Tufts, advertising instructors, **Advertising-Account Manager:** Ron Crowley, **Photography Consultant:** Carole Timm, photography instructor, **Photography Chiefs:** Mark Riehl, Mark Saccucci and Andrew Hall, **Photography Crew:** Kathleen McArthur, Crystal Older, Mark Hradsky, **Circulation Management Co-ordinator:** Jeff MacKay.

Life is what you make it

Tuition costs are increasing. Class sizes are bloated. Courses are being eliminated. Functional clocks are disappearing at an alarming rate.

It really doesn't matter. Learning will still happen.

As long as Mr. Sub ensures the college will continue to smell like bacon and the pub ensures a sufficient drop-out rate, who cares?

The pub's patio opens for the first time this year. How liberating it will be when you first spit beer onto an innocent, unsuspecting passerby.

Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre is changing its course selection format, in a pilot test, so students there will be able to take a number of electives from any program they desire. Imagine the joy it will bring to your program's students, one day, to learn the intricacies of waste management.

The new residence will accommodate more than 200 ne'erdowells, many of whom will only stay there to avoid the exhausting 10-minute hike to the college. In the winter, they will dig a crude tunnel between the residence and the pub. Only then will the true usefulness of the residence's proximity present itself. Taxi drivers and coroners will have plenty of free time.

Some people contend the educational system is on life-support. Funding cuts. Amalgamations. Rationalizations. High individual debt versus low-paying entry-level jobs. Let's face it. Life is what you make it.

In the bigger negative picture, focus on the positive. You'll realize everything is great at Niagara College.

Dave Barnhardt

Stop the garbage — recycle

Garbage day is taken for granted.

Have you ever stopped to think about where your garbage goes? Do you think by putting your garbage in a sturdy green garbage bag and setting it on the curb that it disappears?

Of course, that's what you'd believe since the garbage man comes by your house weekly with his big truck and hauls the garbage away.

Do you know there is a way to reduce the quantity of garbage?

Of course. Recycling. You know those little blue boxes that say "Welland Recycles" on the side. A box that is supposed to contain papers, cans, glass and plastic bottles and not be used as a toy box or target for your car to hit when leaving the driveway.

If everyone recycled just think how much landfill space and money could be saved.

The reality is some people recycle a little and some not at all. Apartment building dwellers can't because of limited access to blue boxes.

Some towns charge user fees where a sticker is placed on the garbage bag. When the stickers are gone the person must pay for extra ones. Recycling becomes a must if you don't want to pay.

The sad part is it takes a user fee before people will willingly recycle everything possible. Maybe, someday, society will wake up and recycle.

Michelle Adey

Letters to the Editor

Article gets fiery response

Dear Editor:

Re: Hyojeong Kim's article in the March 21 issue of the Niagara News: "Tobacco ideals have gone up in smoke."

My blood pressure went through the roof after reading Ms. Kim's column on smoking, Bill C-71, and the Quebec economy.

To begin with, I'll give her credit.

The column brings up good points like cigarettes do kill those who use them and those who don't. It also mentions that smokers won't stop lighting up because of Bill C-71.

Unfortunately, the story is very misleading. It states the bill "might hurt" the Quebec economy. This is a gross understatement.

Some of us attend the Formula One race in Montreal during the month of June. It's no secret that the abundance of bars, restaurants, and hotels depend heavily financially on the week and weekend leading up to the event. But let's not stop there. It isn't just the city of Montreal.

Many tours from around the world that come to the F1 race in Montreal include excursions to Niagara Falls, Ont. for a few days.

Speaking of Ontario, Toronto is the home of the Molson Indy in July. Again, like Montreal, the bars, restaurants, and hotels depend on the revenue thanks to the race. The same goes for Vancouver later in the summer.

And what about Canadians who travel to Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver to spend their vacations? Without any races, many will leave the country and dump money elsewhere and not into Canada's economy.

The race car drivers from this country also depend on the tobacco companies for money.

The truth is that after tobacco and alcohol corporations, no other companies in the Great White North have the budget to spend the millions upon millions of dollars needed to run a racing series or a racing team. If it wasn't for tobacco companies, children wouldn't have heroes like Jacques Villeneuve, Paul Tracy, Greg Moore and Patrick Carpentier.

I'm going to end this talking about the children because this is who Bill C-71 is trying to protect the most.

Health Minister David Dingwall would have you believe that it's the race cars with cigarette advertisements on them that get the young ones smoking to begin with. That is ludicrous!

When's the last time you heard little Billy or Sally say, "Wow! Did you see that Formula One car go by? It said Rothman's on it. I think I'll start smoking."

Cheers,
Geoff Kamada
Third-year
Broadcasting, Radio, Television and Film program

P.S. Like many auto racing fans, I don't smoke cigarettes and don't plan to in the near future.

Alumnus on list

Dear Sam Aselstine:

I read your letter to the editor in Niagara News and thought I would provide you with an update about the AlumNiagara publication.

We stopped publishing it about two years ago when we introduced N-Compass, a newsletter for staff, alumni and the community. We publish 50,000 copies twice annually and distribute them throughout the Niagara Region as well as send copies to an expanding mailing list.

I have enclosed a copy of the most recent edition and we will add you to our mailing list.

Your positive remarks about the Journalism-Print program were delightful to read. I agree with your comments as an alumnus myself as are my husband, Dan and my oldest son, Chris. We all agree that we got a great start on our careers by taking the Journalism-Print program at Niagara College.

Your letter outlines a diverse and challenging career.

Congratulations on your success so far and I wish you all the best in the future.

Regards,
Lyn Russo
Director
Communication and Planning

Graduates say goodbye

Dear Editor:

As members of the graduating Journalism-Print class of 1997 we would like to thank Phyllis Barnatt, Gary Erb, Carole Timm, Ron Crowley and Nancy Geddie for all the support they've given and the lessons they've taught us over the past two years.

We've had our laughs and we've shed a few tears, but all in all we have had the best times of our lives here in this classroom.

We've had to endure hope, heartache, and all of Adam's little anecdotes, but we survived and are now stronger.

We are going to miss Keri's hugs, Carole and Phyllis's motherly looks, Heather's famous accents and all the devoted Gemini flirts in the class.

We'll never forget Rick's God complex, Penni's learning experiences, the phantom students, Melissa's first swear word, the trip to Ottawa or sending our baby Brad out into the "real world."

At last we have to grow up and go our separate ways leaving behind the security of our friends.

"Thumbs up" everyone. See you at graduation on June 10.

Jennifer Gibson
and Gretta Rossi
Class of 1997

FROM THE HIP

Advertising bans threaten auto racing

By DAN DAKIN
Staff Writer

Not many things in life really get to me. However, when the Canadian government starts threatening the life of professional auto racing in Canada, I get upset.

Recently, the government introduced a bill virtually eliminating cigarette company advertising in this wonderful country of ours. But not all advertising would go up in smoke. The people who say they are running this country feel *the arts* are much more important than sports.

At first, they were actually going to let large shows like the Benson and Hedges Symphony of Fire continue to be sponsored by tobacco companies and yet they wanted Players to stop sponsoring the Molson Indy of Toronto, The Montreal Grand Prix, and the Molson Indy of Vancouver. Taking away such large advertising dollars from these three races would nearly destroy them.

I could see if the races were called "The Player's Indy of Toronto" or something along those lines. However, when the only people affected by the advertising are those who actually go to the races then you really can't say anything. If you don't like the signs, banners or posters, don't go to the races.

If you don't like the signs, banners or posters, don't go to the races.

On the other hand, advertising campaigns for the arts have huge billboards all across the country with large pictures of cigarette boxes on them. You can't tell the difference between those ads and regular tobacco ads.

My comment is this: if the government wants to take away all advertising of tobacco and cigarette companies then they should take away ALL advertising, not just what they think is important.

I don't make these comments because I'm an auto racing fanatic either. Sure, I like watching the races but I look at them as a huge source of income for all cities that hold them.

If the government really thinks people are going to stop smoking or the number of youths who start will fall after they get rid of the ads then I have two words for them: peer pressure. To abolish smoking, they will have to get rid of peer pressure. And to that I say — good luck.

Too much work, not enough time

By RACHEL MATHEWS
Staff Writer

Mid-terms are slowly sneaking up. Millions of deadlines have already taken my breath away.

Amid hectic everyday duties, it's almost impossible to cram studying into my schedule. The reality is the world doesn't revolve around me. In fact I'm running in circles trying to keep up with it.

I can still remember the good old days when playing in the sand box or with building blocks was my biggest worry. Even though they're not long passed they seem to have be_n eons ago when childish daydreams occupied most of my time and paying attention to classroom activities had no effect on my grades.

Well, my fellow college attendees, those days have passed.

Now we have 100-pound textbooks, hours of lectures and tedious exams to fill in the empty void. If your schedule is anything like mine you will understand.

I have eight classes this term and, trust me, it's no picnic. I have a locker filled with books, essay due dates crashing down on me and seminars coming out my ears. Plus I'm getting married in May and have two nagging mothers breathing down my neck. It's hard trying to fit everything in when my days are only filled with 24 hours and I need 30 to do everything.

I just wish I had more time. It seems as if whenever I'm ready to tackle a new assignment I'm already 10 minutes late for my next class or bridal shower.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but for me life isn't getting any easier. Aren't we supposed to age gracefully and tackle difficult situations with ease as we mature?

Maybe it's just me but with every advancing minute I seem to be fumbling over my grace. Sure, I'm meeting my deadlines and keeping up with the social expectations of pre-marriage, but with all the building stress I am barely keeping my head above water.

Despite the March break, my stress has not vanished. It has only gotten worse because of my constant procrastination.

Perhaps we should be thanking our educators for this information overload. This is just the beginning of our promising futures. At this rate I'm already late for that too.

Dreaming the impossible

By JENNIFER COTE
Staff Writer

I have dreams. Huge, exciting dreams.

After I receive my Journalism-Print diploma, I would like to attend Brock University in St. Catharines to study English and politics. There is so much to see, to learn and to experience.

Unfortunately, these are only dreams, dreams that will almost certainly not come true. I, like many others, cannot afford the financial expense of attending university.

Well, I guess that is not entirely true. I could attend Brock University and fulfill my dreams. My parents are not wealthy and I more than qualify for the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). I would be lent more than enough money to continue my studies, but "lent" is the key word here.

I would have to repay the provincial government tens of thousands of dollars to attain the education I desire. Don't get me wrong. I don't want a free handout from the government, but I would appreciate a break.

Under the current OSAP program, recipients have six months after graduation, interest-free, to begin paying back the full loan amount, a portion each month.

I am scared to death I won't get a job in the allotted six-month time period. What will happen to me then? I have no intention of defaulting on my loan because I am truly grateful to have received it, but it is terrifying to realize I may owe all that money.

There are students, without the desire to learn, flunking college and university classes. They are using OSAP funds dedicated students like me could use to fulfill their dreams.

For now, my dreams just aren't going to come true.

Life's delicate balance, too much to handle

By KATHLEEN McARTHUR
Staff Writer

Look around you. Students are cooks, cashiers, service and stock personnel working to pay for their education. The delicate balance between work and school is a juggling act for some students.

A retail cashier's life is harder than it looks. The cashier, the last person you see at the store, often doubles as a sales clerk. Customer service is the primary goal when the clerk helps the consumer find a special item or sale products.

The customer, as well as the attending clerk, plays a role in the level of service received. The customer, having a bad day, snaps at the cashier or clerk. This raises the frustration level for both.

For the cashier, keeping the checkouts tidy and free of discarded items is a task. Customers discard items anywhere giving subsequent customers reason to complain. The less time needed to clean up after customers, the more time staff can devote to assisting those in need.

The dreaded wait in the checkout line when items don't scan and some don't have tags causes tempers to rise. Who do the customers blame but the poor cashier. Whose fault tags have been ripped off and the pricing in the computer does not match the ticket?

The cashier has a warm friendly smile and tries to make sport of the error while correcting it. Finding solutions is part of the job. Laughter and making light of a tense situtation make a good cashier better. Remember, the only control a cashier has is to try to make customers smile while taking your money for your purchases.

We should see ourselves in every job and imagine what it is like be at the receiving end of every service in our day-to-day lives. Treating the worker with the same respect we want to receive will only add to our self-esteem.

If we a look at ourselves through the actions of others, we see we are really quite silly. Laughing and shaking our heads only reinforces this fact. In the words of a customer, "Are you open?"

Guys versus girls—will the debates end?

By MARK RIEHL
Staff Writer

Girl talk — when women get together and talk about men.

Here are three signs you may notice if you interrupt "girl talk."

The first sign, dead silence.

The second, high-pitched giggles followed by their saying "nothing" when you ask what they're doing.

The third is they rush to a spot three feet from their original "girl talk" position to whisper something to other "girl talk" members.

Why does it seem as though most women always talk about men?

Men can't even watch sports with women without them saying three statements about the game.

The first statement: What's the score? This is asked so that we believe that they are interested in the game.

The second and third statements usually come together: He's cute, followed by he's got a nice butt. Now how's a guy supposed to finish watching the game after that?

This tactic is used by women to get men to change the channel to Melrose Place or to the movie of the week.

I'm not saying men don't talk about women but, technically, we don't talk about them. We just make statements.

Women, on the other hand, talk about everything dealing with the opposite sex. They discuss everything from how men look in the shower to how they get along with "their mothers."

I don't understand how women talk "girl talk" all day at school then they go home and continue their chat on the phone. What is there left to talk about?

'I'm not saying men don't talk about women . . .'
— Riehl

'At a break of a game we ask, what's the score?'
— Whaling

By SHARON WHALING
Staff Writer

Oh, look at that engine. So awesome.

Did you see that fight? Did you see the Leaf game last night?

Cars and Sports — is this just a guy thing or why is it that there is such a division in man/woman conversations.

The only time a woman wants to discuss cars with a man is when she wants to buy one and does not want a lemon. Other than that, who cares?

Regarding sports, the only time we pay attention is when surfing the channels on the tube and just want to see the score so we can look intelligent the next day when talking with the boys.

I once had the experience of walking into a home in which two men were watching the baseball or hockey game and a woman couldn't even say "how was your day?" until the commercial or intermission.

When we surf the channels, we just want to see the score; when they surf, they want to actually watch the whole game. Then at the break of a game, when we genuinely ask, "What's the score?" men get this dumbfounded look like, "as if you don't know."

Another peeve women have about men is that they never talk about their girlfriends. It could be that they are madly in love, but just too shy to express it or they simply have no desire to share with their "buds" how intelligent she is.

If and when they do discuss women, they make stereotypical comments and how much they would love to sleep with her.

So what is one to do? It seems the only thing the two sexes can agree on is this: How was work last night? Did you see 90210? Do you want to go for a beer?

'Effective teachers make students think' says Busnarda

By BRADEN TANGUAY
Staff Writer

For Niagara College faculty member Tom Busnarda, life is about learning, and teaching is more than a job.

Busnarda, 45, is the co-ordinator of the General Arts and Science program, and a professor at Brock University in St. Catharines.

Busnarda says it's important for educators to do more than just teach students the required curriculum.

"Effective teachers make students think. They raise doubt and wonder and are always questioning."

Busnarda says he discovered the "humanistic" message of life and learning during months of travel after he quit university. "I left for England when I was 24. I travelled through Europe and North Africa. It was a culture shock, but a lot of my learning was done in these eight months."

He says he returned feeling "more evolved" from the experience. "Travelling was one of the best things I have ever done."

His travels carried him across Canada into Mexico. "Mexico was scary. There was no sense of safety. We were robbed, shot at, and at times, I felt my life was in danger."

Returning to his home in Hamilton and in need of a job, Busnarda took a three-year iron worker's apprenticeship in construction. The job had him travelling across Canada and the United States.

"It was a high risk occupation, but the freedom of the job is what attracted me to it."

During the 1980's recession, Busnarda quit his job to look for other work. "I was reading the paper one night and saw a job opening to teach trade skills at Niagara College. I had the right qualifications so I called the next day and was hired."

While working, Busnarda returned to school and completed his bachelor of arts degree at Brock. "I got turned back onto learning."

Busnarda says teaching came easy to him. "I had always wanted to be a teacher and have the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. With having a family, teaching keeps me home. I am very appreciative of this job."

Busnarda has been involved with the College Vocational program and was co-ordinator for the Human Relations program. This year he assumed the duties as co-ordinator of the General Arts and Science program.

Cuts from the provincial government has changed the nature of the job, he says. "A lot of reorganizing and downsizing has occurred at the college."

"It makes sense for fiscal reasons, but it is not sound for classes with 100 to 150 students. It reduces the quality of education."

Busnarda says "teacher bashing" has come from politicians in government, and there are "inane knee-jerk statements" coming out of Toronto.

"The current Ontario government is probably the most ideological in Canada today. They have a blind alliance to right-wing corporatism and they miss the human aspect of life. They want to cut fast and cut hard. They have a narrowly-defined agenda which is driven by market economics."

Busnarda says despite government cuts, teaching is what he enjoys. "I like being in the classroom the most. I have the opportunity to be in a learning environment. Niagara College is a challenging and exciting place to work."

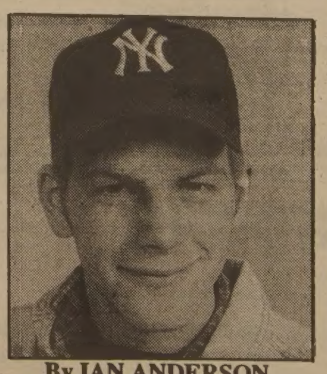
He says he tries to "democratize" his classroom and treat the classroom "as a family."

"When people ask me what I teach, I tell them I teach students . . . sometimes we forget we are talking about people."

Giving students more than facts and figures is important, Busnarda says. "Effective teaching involves connecting with students individually. There is a moral and ethical

(Continued on page 11)

When it comes to relationships, don't make assumptions



By IAN ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Have you ever been talking to a girl (maybe she is just a friend or maybe she isn't) and your friends hoot and holler about you picking her up or hitting on her.

I think this is a problem for men and I know that I'm not the only one that feels this way.

I know at college many people think if you are talking to a girl you're going to want to sleep with her. What is wrong with just talking to someone? What are we, in high school still?

I think students figure they can come here just to pick up people or to find a date. I don't find anything wrong with this but I think there is a proper place and time for it.

If people want to hit on a girl or try to pick up someone they should realize that school is not the best place for it. Try going to a bar or even a dance. It might just work a little better.

If people can not realize you might be talking to girl because she has something interesting to say then they need to check their own level of maturity.

Maybe they are jealous or maybe they are trying to behave just like their friends?

I just don't know. Somebody explain this to me.

By TINEKE BRUINSMA
Staff Writer

Women can talk to men and there is no problem. But, when men talk to women, the men are automatically after one thing. I believe this idea is entirely wrong. Why is it that men and woman can't have a platonic relationship?

It seems everywhere you go comments are made from the outside looking in. Take time to figure out what is going on before you assume what is going on. People tend to make comments while assuming there is a sexual relationship happening.

Men and women have interactions everyday, in the workplace, in traffic and, yes, in colleges. But, that doesn't mean there are underlying meanings to these interactions.

Conversations between men and women do not always have ulterior motives. Men and women are quite able to have intelligent conversations and, contrary to popular belief, are quite able to be platonic friends.

College students should be mature enough to realize school is a place of education and not a night club.

World travel fascinates Wilson as he 'trains the trainers'

By DAVE CONROY
Staff Writer

Ed Wilson's career at Niagara College is as interesting as the curriculum he teaches.

The 53-year-old Fenwick native holds two positions. He is a professor in the General Studies Division and a Human Resources Development consultant.

As part of teacher-training sessions, Wilson has travelled to China, Swaziland in South Africa and Botswana in southern Africa.

Wilson said he spent this past March Break training teachers and administrators to use True Colors, a personality-style inventory test.

"I find travelling extremely fascinating."

Wilson teaches courses such as Comparing World Religions, Report Writing for Human Services, and Current Events.

He is a graduate of McMaster University in Hamilton majoring in English and history, a graduate of Trinity Theological Seminary in Toronto majoring in history, and a graduate of Niagara University in Niagara Falls, N.Y., in Education.

Shortly after, he began working at Niagara College in the adult education area. He then worked 15 years as the co-ordinator of the General Arts and Science program.

"I like the interaction with the students and the variety of jobs and positions."

Wilson said Niagara College has many excellent courses that compare to other colleges in Ontario. "We have an excellent reputation among staff, teachers and administrators from other colleges."

He said among the 25 colleges in Ontario, Niagara (a medium-sized school) is respected.

Wilson said students today are more demanding. "We are seeing more older and mature students that demand more quality instruction and programming."

Wilson said as far as improving the school is concerned, he believes in continuous improvement.

"I am a believer in the principle of continuous improvement . . . there is always something you can improve, including facilities, student services and teaching."

Secretarial support staff enjoys being around more students

By ALEX HALMAI
Staff Writer

A secretary's job at Niagara College involves much more than filing papers and taking telephone calls.

Sandy Bain, secretary to the manager of ancillary services at the Welland campus of Niagara College, said she is "still learning something new everyday about her job."

She lives in Welland and began working as a full-time employee in 1985.

Bain started at the college as secretary to the director of the Allied Health Studies division.

The division was restructured in 1996. This caused the release of most of the division's support staff, including secretaries.

Bain, through seniority status, was offered her current job.

Her wide range of responsibilities include the sale of parking permits, filing the appeals of those ticketed at any Niagara College campus and liability insurance for students on campus or work placements. Bain does the paperwork for the college's child care centre and campus store.

At her previous position, contact with students was limited to those involved with the Allied Health Studies division. Bain said she "enjoys being around many more students" at her new post.

Originally from Alberta, Bain and her mother came to visit three sisters who had moved to Ontario. "We really liked it here, so we went back to Alberta, sold the farm and moved," she said.

Bain said she likes the "variety" and "responsibilities" of her job but warns, "It's very hard to catch-up if you fall behind. Sometimes you find that there is just not enough time."

'Teaching is a good gig' says Busnarda

(Continued from page 10)

responsibility among teachers to their students."

Busnarda has a master's degree in education and an undergraduate degree in history and politics from Brock. He is working on his doctoral degree in educational philosophy.

He says away from the job "my passion in life is golf." What appeals to him is the "social aspect" of the game. "Golf teaches you a lot about yourself and human behavior. You learn a lot about the people you play with."

A book by Michael Murphy called *Golf in the Kingdom* is a good read, Busnarda says. "It talks about the zen of golf and the spirituality of the game. It's great."

When the golden age of retirement arrives, it will be one of "golf and beer," he says. "I would like to move south and play golf 12 months a year. Winter isn't enjoyable anymore."

Originally from Hamilton, Busnarda lives in Grimsby with his wife and four daughters.

Teaching as a career has been good, Busnarda says. "Teaching is a good gig. You get paid to learn. I enjoy my work."

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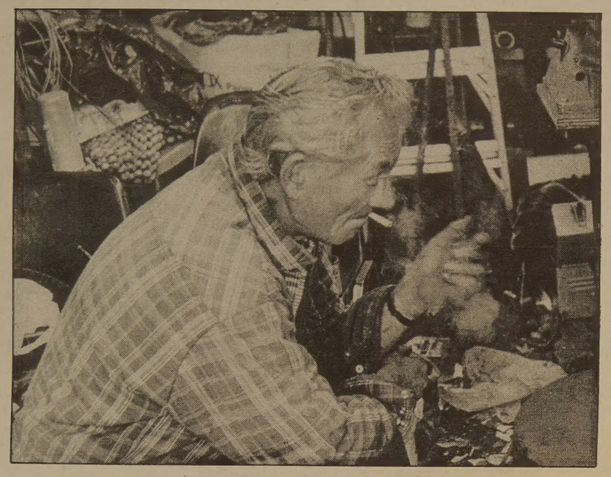
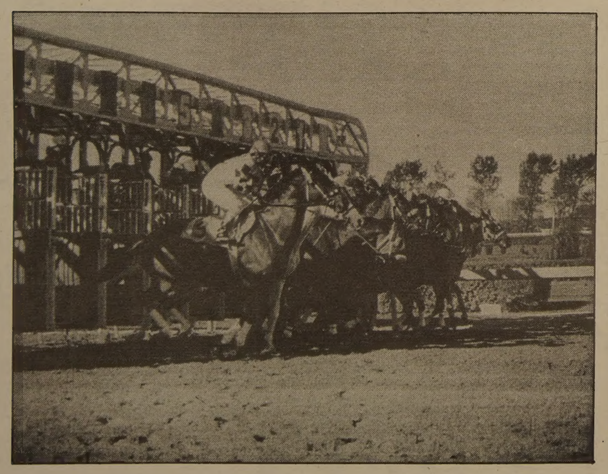
Photography contest ends with a photo finish



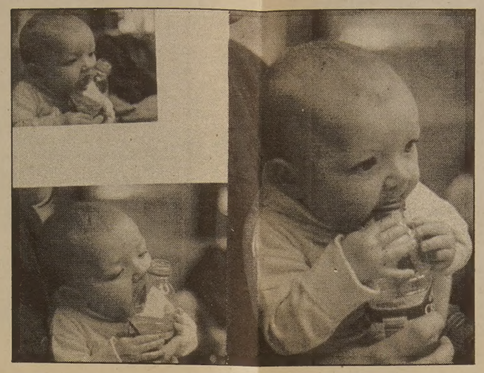
Best overall photo and first place human interest by Heather Hunter.

First place news photo by Melissa Labbe.

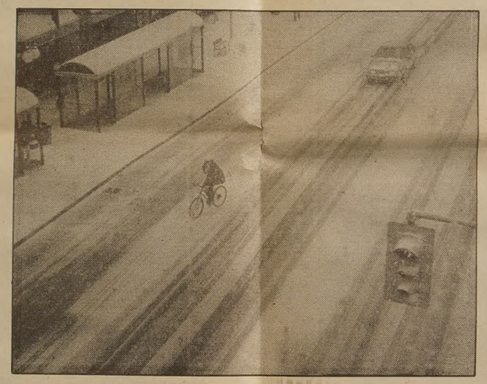


First place sports by Keri-Lynn Smith.

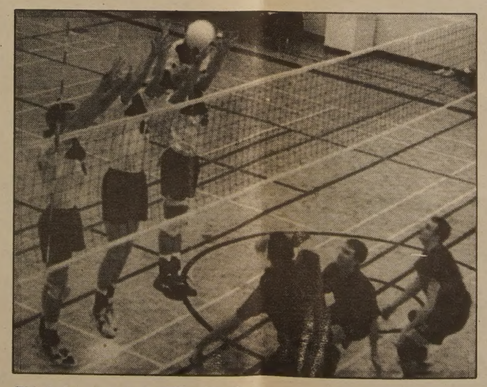
The winners of the fourth annual Journalism-Print program "Best of Year 2" photography competition were recently selected by members of the Journalism-Print advisory committee. The committee included Gary Manning, manager editor of the Welland Tribune and chairman of the advisory committee, Jim Middleton, a former managing editor of the Welland Tribune, Paul Dayboll, owner CanTrack Software Inc., in Port Colborne and Desktop Publishing instructor at the college, Henry Zwolak, publisher of the Niagara Falls The Weekly Chronicle and Niagara Home and Office Computing, and Kevin Cavanagh, editorial page editor of the St. Catharines Standard. Faculty did not participate in the selection.



Second place human interest by Katherine Nadeau.



Second place news photo by Jhim Burwell.

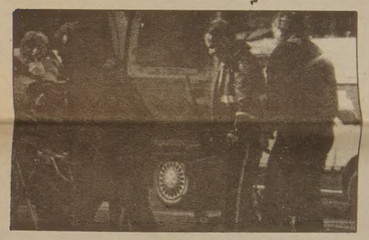


Third place sports by Mike Hastings

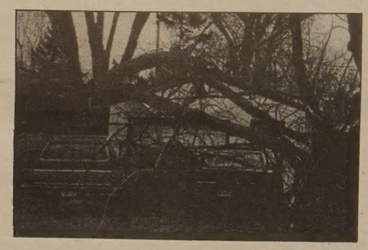
Prizes for the fourth annual Journalism-Print program "Best of Year 2" photography competition were provided by the following donors: Commercial Photocopy, MCL Colour Lab, Bell Arte Camera, Kodak Canada and the Journalism-Print program.

Third place human interest by Samantha Goidwin

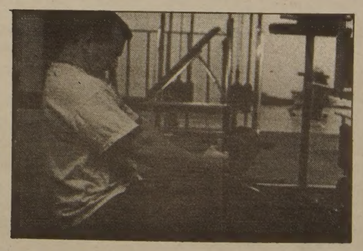
Third place human interest by Keri-Lynn Smith



Third place news photo by Keri-Lynn Smith



Third place news photo by Katherine Nadeau



Third place sports by Mike Hastings

Technician enjoys teaching at the college

By MARK RIEHL
Staff Writer

Paul Dayboll is temporarily replacing "a long-time" instructor who is on sick leave.

Dayboll, 37, is working at Niagara College in his first year as a sessional instructor in the Mac Lab at the Welland campus.

He lives in Port Colborne, where he has lived all his life. "I just like it there," said Dayboll, who has a wife and two children.

He came in September to temporarily replace Eileen Muir. "She's off because of illness. She had a ton of experience in the industry and she has worked here a long time," said Dayboll.

He has worked at the college before as a technician and consultant in the Mac Lab in S204. This is his first experience in teaching students.

"I like the college a lot. I really like teaching here. I like the challenge and the students. There is a lot more work than I thought being an instructor here."

Dayboll said he used to teach in the industry where he would teach only eight people everything from databases to pagination and mainly everything about a Macintosh computer.

Dayboll continues to run his business called Cantrack Software Inc., which he started three years ago.

"I am the whole company."

His business mainly deals with being a Macintosh technician and designing databases using FileMaker software. "I tend to deal with a set client base and deal mainly with small and medium-sized newspaper installations.

"Finding the problem with a computer system is the hard part of the business. Fixing the problem is easy," he said.

To start his business, Dayboll had to be certified in Apple computers. He had to pay $2,000 for seven days of training to become Apple and Laser service authorized and another $1,000 for tools and testers.

"My business was still cheaper to set up than others."

While devoting his time to Cantrack Inc., he was approached to do some teaching at the college.

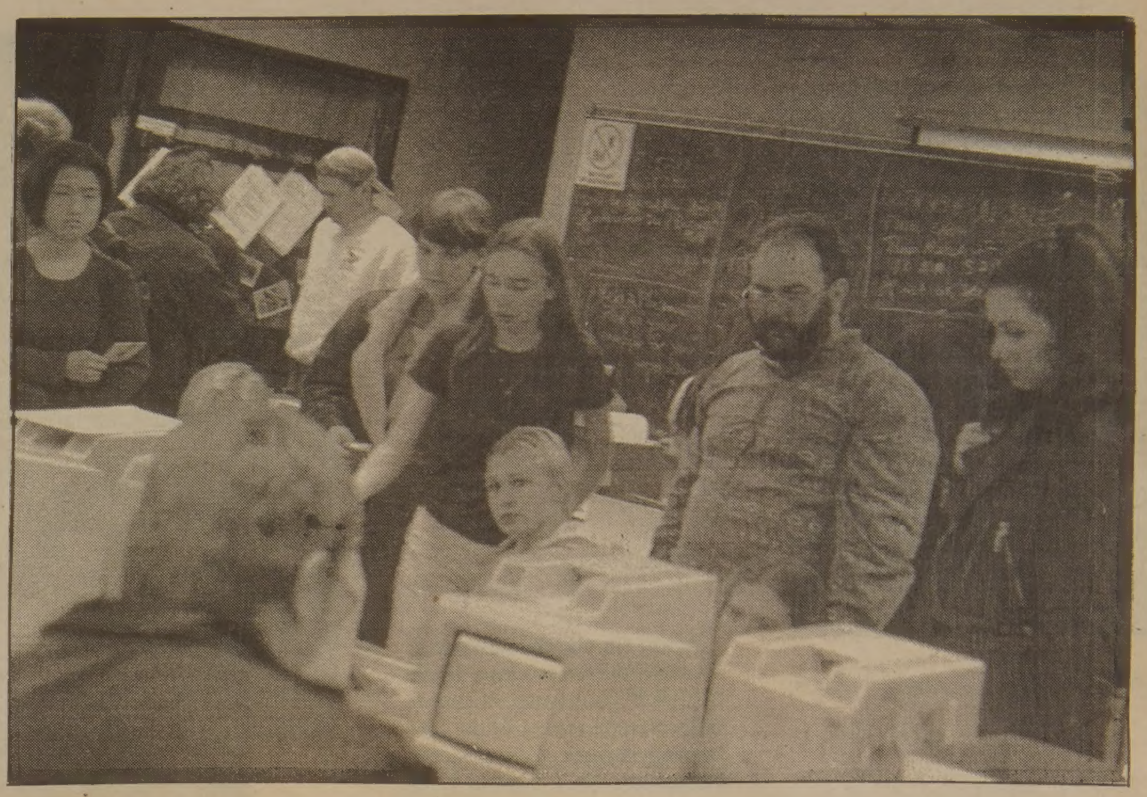
He said he likes teaching, compared to working in the industry as a technician because here he is a part of the faculty and involved with people.

"Working in the industry is a lonely business. In the industry there is more stress because you walk into a problem all the time as a technician and you're the one expected to fix it."

In his spare time, he said he enjoys fishing and judo.

"I went back into judo with my son so I could spend more time with him."

This past February, Dayboll and his wife went on a Caribbean cruise for a week. "It was great, but that will be my last vacation for a while. I hope to be working full time here in the summer and hopefully next year."



Paul Dayboll (with beard) helps first-year Journalism-Print program students with the computers in the S212 newsroom.

Photo by Jeannie Orban

Changing the face of teaching

By DAN DAKIN
Staff Writer

He's changing the face of teaching.

Brian Green, a Niagara College instructor, released his first CD-ROM on April 1 after nearly six months of planning and developing.

Last October, the president of Confederation College in Thunder Bay contacted Green about producing a CD-ROM that would teach basic writing skills on a college level.

Green agreed to the project and immediately began to work on it with his co-author Sarah Norton.

After a few months, Green realized that there was just something missing.

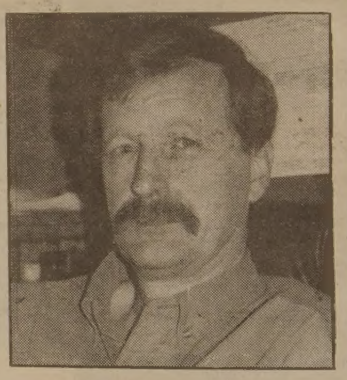
"Some people don't learn through bare essentials but they do learn through a game," he said.

"I played Super Mario Brothers for weeks and beat the whole damn thing. I figured that I probably could have been learning something useful at the same time."

At that point, Green proposed an educational game to the Interactive Multimedia program students. Four students took the initiative and designed the game.

"They've been totally independent on developing it. I hope there will be rewards down the road for them," said Green.

When the pilot CD-ROM appeared to be a reality, Green said, he was faced with an "uphill battle."



BRIAN GREEN

"The educators are not game players so it was hard to convince them that this project would work."

The pilot CD-ROM focuses on how to properly use apostrophes.

Green said with 50 test copies made he is talking with the Ontario Council of (college) Presidents who may finance the finished product and use it as part of their curriculum.

Currently, the project is being funded by Harcourt Canada who has shown interest in the idea since the beginning.

This is not the first teaching tool that Green has been involved in. As well as textbooks he has written, Green designed another on-line teaching project called **The Gold Coin** project.

"It failed because it was too far ahead of its time. Technology had to catch up to it," he said.

At the end of this school year, Green will be taking a one-year leave of absence but plans on returning in 1998.

Sarkis says school spirit will soar

By ANDREA FLINDALL
Staff Writer

School spirit at Niagara College will continue to get better if the man in charge of college athletics has his way.

Ray Sarkis, 40, the director's assistant of athletics, says interest in varsity sports was at its best this year.

"Because of promotion in flyers and posters, we had a great year," he said, adding student involvement tripled.

"Most fans were regulars, the kids who were always around the gym," he said. "Parents of local athletes are also very supportive."

Sarkis said local athletes are "very important" to the varsity program because they get coverage in local newspapers.

"Local papers prefer to cover 'Hometown Heroes.'"

Sarkis said the amount of coverage depends on coaches. "They need to take five to 10 minutes after a game to fill out reports for the papers."

He said the college's varsity teams did not receive the amount of coverage they deserved for the accomplishments they had.

Although local athletes are important to the program, the college depends on recruits and out-of-city talent to round out the teams.

Niagara College does not have the scholarship money that many of the larger Toronto and Hamilton colleges have to offer. This makes recruiting hard for the coaches.

"I try to sell athletes on qualities of the programs offered, low cost of living, location, and coaching skills that are all here at Niagara," Sarkis said.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson and Ray Sarkis, director's assistant of athletics, pose with the new emblem of the Niagara College Knights.

Photo by Dan Dakir

Next year 230 students will live in residence. Intramural activities will be held on Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday nights and are expected to attract more student involvement.

Promotional games in partnership with After Hours, the student centre at the Welland campus, will help attract more students.

Local companies are giving door prizes to the athletic department for fans at varsity games.

"People like that. They pay $2 to come, have some entertainment and leave with a prize," said Sarkis.

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SPORTS

Top athletes awarded at sports banquet

By KERRI WOOD
Staff Writer

Niagara College's 28th annual Athletic Banquet honoring the college's top athletes of the 1996-1997 season was held on March 25.

Mike Harris, 21, of Niagara Falls, was chosen as Niagara College's Male Athlete of the year. Harris is one of the highest scoring basketball players in the college's history.

The second year Business-Retail Management program student led his team in scoring during the 1996-1997 season. The team finished second in the Western Division, third in three-point field goals and third in Ontario, with Harris scoring 22.4 points per game.

Harris was chosen to represent the college at the annual Ontario College Athletic Association (OCAA) All-Star game. There he finished second in the three-point shooting contest.

He was chosen as Ontario's Canadian College Athletic Association (CCAA) 1997 Basketball Athlete for the month of February. He was selected for the All-Star team at St. Lawrence College and George Brown College tournaments.

Manie Roy, 20, of Southampton, Ont., Female Athlete of the Year, was a dominant scorer in the OCAA women's basketball league. She finished in second place overall in Ontario in scoring, averaging 17.7 points per game.

Roy was selected as OCAA Female Athlete of the Week on Jan. 6. She represented Niagara College at the annual East-West All-Star game and was chosen as Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the game. Roy, last year's Freshman Female Athlete of the Year, was chosen as this year's OCAA first-team league All-Star.

Kerby Bently of Brampton, Ont., was awarded Niagara College Male Freshman Athlete of the Year. Bently led the men's volleyball team's defence with 56 blocks and was the top blocker in the OCAA.

He finished fifth in scoring in the Western Division.

Ray Sarkis, director's assistant of Niagara College Athletics, said Bently was "one of the leaders of this year's team and led by example and pure determination to win. He's a gutsy athlete and a great complement to the men's program."

Andrea Flindall, 19, of St. Catharines, a first year Journalism-Print student was chosen as this year's Female Freshman Athlete of the Year. Averaging 10.7 points per game as offense for the women's basketball team, she was chosen as one of the college's representatives at the Annual All-Star game.She finished second in the three-point shooting contest at the All-Star game.

Tara Petrachenko, assistant basketball coach, said Flindall "has a great attitude on and off the court with her teammates and will be a great leader for the Niagara College Knights."

Harris and Mike Hurley, 22, of Fonthill, were chosen as co-MVPs for the men's basketball team.

Roy was picked as the MVP for the women's basketball team.

Pat Deschambeault, of Welland, was chosen as the MVP for the men's volleyball team.

Laura Chatterton, of St Catharines, was the MVP of the women's volleyball team.

The curling team defended their Regional title at the OCAA Chamionships, shutting out their competition 30 to 0, and won gold.

The touch football team came up short when defending their three-time OCAA gold medal. This year they won bronze.

The badminton's mixed doubles team finished second in the Western Division.

Peter Manning, in his first year coaching the golf team, managed to finish the season in seventh place.

Paul Howie, coach for women's indoor soccer team, described their season as "one step forward, two steps back."

Laura Brant was chosen as their Most Defensive Player of the Year. The MVPs were Laura Chatterton and Becky Read.

Sarkis thanked all the athletes for the effort they put forth.

Rugby — Niagara College's new contact sport

By KERRI WOOD
Staff Writer

Rugby is coming to Niagara College.

With the elimination of the college's hockey team, students were left with no contact sports.

Two college students are putting forth an effort to change that.

Sam Osborne, a second-year Broadcasting-Radio Television and Film (BRTF) program student, and Corey Fraser, a first-year BRTF program student, are "serious" about establishing a rugby team.

Although rugby is not considered an official sport of the Ontario College Athletic Association, Fraser and Osborne were given approval by the college's athletic department to start the team.

The rugby team will not be funded by the athletic department.

The team has "received $200 from SAC (Student Administrative Council) for forming a club," said Osborne, 22, of Welland.

There is no age requirement to join the team, but players must be full-time male students attending Niagara.

The cost to each team member has not yet been determined. However, it could cost about $150 for a jersey, shorts and socks.

Osborne said he is hoping to be ready for the team's starting date on Sept. 18.

The team must have a minimum of 15 players.

Some students who have already shown an interest played last year in high school, where they learned how to play the game. Other students showing an interest have had international experience.

People who have been playing rugby for years like teaching others how to play, said Fraser, 20, of Niagara Falls.

"Everyone who has played rugby had to learn how to play at some point. People are forgetting that," he said.

Most people who play football or soccer tend to enjoy playing rugby, said Fraser.

Anyone who wants to play, but doesn't know how, can learn, he said. "It's easy to learn. We will teach you how to play."

Fraser, who plays for the Niagara Wasps, a men's rugby team in Port Colborne, is starting the college's rugby team because the college doesn't have any contact sports.

Fraser said people starting rugby teams at other colleges inspired him to start a team here.

"It is exhilarating," said Fraser. "The best sport I've ever played."

"I enjoy playing. Rugby is a team-oriented sport," said Osborne. "It incorporates people of all sizes. It is the ultimate athlete's sport. Everybody can play."

Osborne, who played on a men's team in Belleville, said rugby is becoming a popular sport.

Many high schools have teams and those who played in high school are looking for a team at college, he said, adding the college's rugby team is hoping to arrange games against other colleges.

Fraser and Osborne said they hope to get someone from the Niagara Wasps to coach the new team.

With the start of a men's rugby team, women have approached Fraser and Osborne about possibly starting a women's team.

Fraser said once the men's team gets off the ground, a women's team might follow.

For more information, contact Fraser at 1-905-358-7694.

Navigating numerous web sites for your daily fix

By MARK HRADSKY
Staff Writer

You know the feeling.

An interest so deep you can't pull yourself away. A numbness takes over parts of your body; you don't notice time slip by. An addiction so strong you just can't pull yourself away.

As a surfer is addicted to water, this surfer is addicted to computer screens.

Many people using the Internet have experienced one, if not all, of these feelings. It's an addiction. Support groups help internet junkies. But it is interesting.

Navigating is another matter. Let's start with some web sites. For everyone who has ever used the net to look up information, and has had the problem of the search engine taking too long, or not finding what you are looking for, try www.search.com.

It has all the major search engines as well as an e-mail phone book (411) and job-related and entertainment web sites linked to it.

If you've downloaded games from the net, you respect a good gaming web site. A great site is www.gamespot.com. It carries all the demo releases of the newest games and those of older favorites. It has a review of almost every game by gaming experts and home players who e-mail their comments and scores.

Every month a contest, open to Canadians, is held. Many prizes include full versions of games to outerwear supporting the gaming company's logo.

Some people are chat line-addicted. It's fun to talk to people around the world or next door. There are two excellent chat lines.

Dyslexicon and Chardonnay allow users to talk and live in a virtual world. They're not just chat lines, they're games, with level advancement and new powers with each new level.

To reach Dyslexicon, either visit Passport's web site at www.passport.ca (this site also supports 102.1 The Edge's web page) or use telnet, or another chat program, and go to chat.passport.ca:3000.

To reach Chardonnay visit Chardonnay's web site at www.niagara.com/~talker or use telnet and type chardonnay.niagara. com: 3000.

Personal web pages are all over the net. The college has one. I have one. Many of my friends have one. A lot of these pages are interesting to visit just to see what's on them.

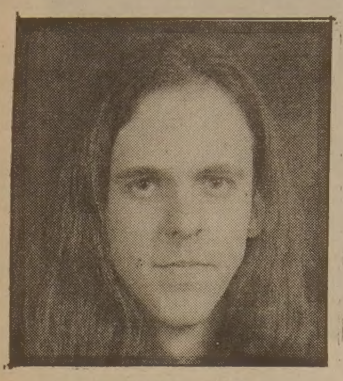
The college's web page carries academic information and doesn't have a lot of cool graphics or java, but is interesting to visit to see how it is set up. To visit the college's web page, go to www.niagarac.on.ca.

A lot of Vaxxine's users have really good web pages. They are all listed on Vaxxine's home page at www.vaxxine.com (Mine's there too, www.vaxxine.com/cyberpunk).

There are many, many pages on the net. If you find any great pages you want to share, you can reach me at the Niagara News. Until next time, keep surfing but don't go overboard.

SPORTS

Wings vs Flyers?



By JOHN PEAR
Staff Writer

Which team will be the one to sip from Lord Stanley's mug this year? Here's the rundown on this year's contenders.

The Favorites

Colorado Avalanche: Joe Sakic, Peter Forsberg, Claude Lemieux, Valeri Kamensky and Sandis Ozolinsh spell trouble for opposing goalies. Patrick Roy is a sentry in goal who will let nothing pass. Their first round opponents will be sacrificed as a warning to others. Odds: 2-1

Philadelphia Flyers: The Legion of Doom wants revenge. The Broad Street Bullies are back to claim the Stanley Cup. Eric Lindros will propel this squad into the finals. Paul Coffey must excel and Ron Hextall must keep his cool for Philly to win. Odds: 2-1

Detroit Red Wings: Steve Yzerman can't do it himself. The Russians have to play better (this means you, Sergei Fedorov). Chris Osgood is an ace in net, and Brendan Shanahan must continue to lead by example to end the Stanley Cup drought. Odds: 4-1

New Jersey Devils: The best defence and Martin Brodeur already make the Devils a favorite. Doug Gilmour provides intensity with clutch goal scoring. Scott Stevens will provide veteran leadership. They will be hard to beat. Odds: 4-1

New York Rangers: This year's team has plenty of experience. Wayne Gretzky, Mark Messier, Mike Richter, Brian Leetch and Esa Tikkanen are a few of the stars with Cup rings. Can Gretzky and Messier rekindle the magic one more time? Don't bet against them. Odds: 5-1

The Dark Horses

Edmonton Oilers: Jason Arnott and Doug Weight want it now. Curtis Joseph can win games himself. Luke Richardson and Bryan Marchment will inspire fear in opposing forwards. This fast, offensively gifted team can surprise unsuspecting teams. Odds: ???

So, here it is in a nutshell. Detroit will meet Colorado in the Western Conference finals. Detroit will win in six. Philadelphia hosts New Jersey with the Flyers winning in seven. It's a clash of the titans with the Red Wings meeting the Flyers. Sorry, Scotty Bowman, Philly will pound you to defeat in five games.

New dreams for new Jays...

By MARK RIEHL
Staff Writer

Winter is over and the new-look Toronto Blue Jays are ready to spring into the 1997 baseball season with new faces, new uniforms and new dreams of being World Series contenders once again.

The Jays will begin their 21st season wearing a new logo that emphasizes a red Canadian leaf behind a sleeker Jay emblem.

If the new uniforms won't win games for the Jays, maybe the winter moves that team president Paul Beeston and general manager Gord Ashe made to the team will.

The biggest move was adding strikeout king Roger Clemens from Boston to an already potent pitching staff. Clemens will be joining reigning Cy Young award winner Pat Hengten and Juan Guzman, last year's earned runned average leader.

Toronto also filled some holes by acquiring second baseman Carlos Garcia, outfielder Orlando Merced and reliever Dan Pleasac all via a trade with Pittsburgh.

Benito Santiago also signed with the Jays, bringing his career high 30 home runs last year in Philadelphia and solidifying the Jays catching.

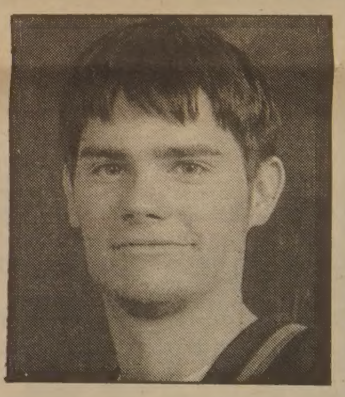
The organization has done more than enough to improve the 74-88 fourth-place team in the East last year. It's now up to the players to get the job done on the field.

I believe the newcomers need to make an instant impact on the team. Also, Pat Hengten, Ed Sprague and Carlos Delgado must continue to play as they did in their career years last season.

The Jays have a chance to be a contender again, but don't expect them to jump back into first place.

The New York Yankees still have a strong team and they are reigning World Series Champs. Look for the Jays to battle and defeat Baltimore for the wild-card position.

Rivals want rematch



By DAVE CONROY
Staff Writer

Don Cherry should have been at these two events. The Hamilton Bulldogs hosted two hockey games against the Saint John Flames at Copps Coliseum in Hamilton on the weekend of March 24 and 25 in a battle for their playoff lives.

Bored on a Friday night, I decided to make the trip to Hamilton and watch the American Hockey League (AHL) in action.

More than 4,000 paid the $11.75 admission price. It was well worth it to watch the fast-paced hard-hitting hockey action.

In fact, the game was so good I had to return to the next one, a 2 p.m. game on Sunday.

Hamilton lost the Friday game against Saint John 4-1. It featured three fights, two involving Hamilton tough guy Georges Laraque, who sent a Saint John player through the glass in front of my seat.

Both teams are farm teams for the National Hockey League's Edmonton Oilers and Calgary Flames, and I quickly discovered the players were close to NHL calibre.

The rematch on Sunday saw the same feisty competition. Hamilton shutout Saint John 3-0 in front of 8,879 fans.

Hamilton's win put the Bulldogs two points ahead of Saint John in a fight for a final playoff spot in the AHL's Canadian Division.

There is a good chance these two teams could collide in the first round of the playoffs. There is a very good chance I could be sitting front row watching that first round.

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ENTERTAINMENT

It's the truth — Carrey's great in Liar, Liar

By TINEKE BRUINSMA
Staff Writer

I would be lying if I said Jim Carrey's newest film Liar Liar wasn't funny.

Carrey portrays a lawyer named Fletcher Reede. Reede neglects his son and lies at every possible opportunity. Reede is unable to lie after his five-year-old son makes a birthday wish.

In previous films Carrey's characters were somewhat less than human. However, in Liar Liar his character is very human, even though he is a lawyer. Reede is not as extreme as Carrey's previous characters.

The film is not all laughs, as there are a few moments when the strings of the heart are tugged at. Carrey makes his audience roll in the aisles with laughter and also makes them want to give his poor neglected son a bearhug.

Large, exaggerated body movements typical of Carrey are used throughout the film. They are one of Carrey's most unusual assets. They have accented his comedic ability in past films and do now in Liar Liar.

His jokes and sharp shooting truths work for and against him. He manages to save his job and his family but not without sacrificing himself. He is hurt emotionally and physically and all his injuries are a direct result of his own actions.

Without revealing too much more about Carrey's new film Liar Liar, I give this movie an enthusiastic two thumbs up. After all, if you think I'm lying you can go see it for yourself.

Fletcher Reede (Jim Carrey), at right, finds himself hampered in the courtroom by his sudden inability to lie. Fletcher's odd behavior is baffling and disturbing to Virginia Cole (Jennifer Tilly), her wealthy husband (Eric Pierpoint), second from left, and his attorney Swoosie Kurtz.

Photo by Melinda Sue Gordon

Offspring's Ixnay a hit

By MARK HRADSKY
Staff Writer

The Offspring have another hit album. Like **Smash** before it, **Ixnay on the Hombre** will push The Offspring to new highs.

In the last two months, Ixnay has had two songs played constantly on the radio, *All I want* and *Gone Away*.

With the same hard music and high voice, The Offspring haven't changed much, but there is a new style of music on this CD. *Don't pick it up*, a ska tune without the horns, sounds great. There is even a secret track on the CD, but you'll just have to pick it up to hear it.

Disclaimer and *Intermission* keep the tradition with a vocal introduction to the CD and a break in the middle, but they get repetitive fast. You'll be skipping these tracks by the second time you listen to the CD.

Otherwise, **Ixnay** has all the fast, heavy guitar that The Offspring are known for.

A great CD for any Offspring lover, **Ixnay on the Hombre** keeps listeners interested until the end of the CD, then leaves them wanting to listen again. Better hit the repeat button before listening, then sit back and enjoy a new hit CD.

Donell Jones' My Heart mellow

By DAN DAKIN
Staff Writer

Mellow . . . extremely mellow.

This is the only way to describe Donell Jones' first release **My Heart.**

While this could be just what the doctor ordered for those few Boyz to Men fans out there in la la land, Jones' album would put most music lovers to sleep.

The first song, *In The Hood* has strong vocals including some interesting use of harmony but there is a lack of one important element: music. After listening to this song, one would think that Jones' drummer and keyboard player missed the recording.

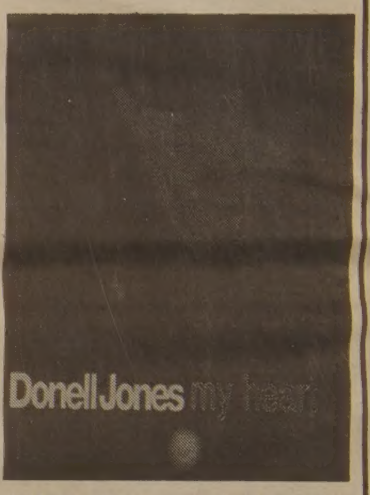
Hoping the disc would get better as I listened to it, I continued on. Unfortunately, it just got worse. Not only was the music lacking, but the lyrics left much to be desired.

Finally at the very end of the album (stuck way back at track 15) was *The Only One You Need.* It's the only song that seems to even have a chance at making the radio. Maybe KISS 98.5 will give it a spin (not that it takes a whole lot of talent to make KISS).

All 15 tracks on the album sound nearly the same. Even the song titles sound alike. From *I Want To Know You* to *You Should Know*, there isn't enough creativity.

While it's true Jones does show a good voice and a talent in this quiet style of music, in order for him to really make it big, he will have to widen his horizons.

The test of a true musician is versatility. Take any great artist or band. A true musician can make any style of music sound great. However, versatility is what Donell Jones seems to be lacking. My advice: wait for his second album (if he makes a second album, that is).



Jones used to write songs for Madonna and other bands, maybe he should go back to that. At least it's something he is good at. If you consider Madonna's songs good.

Rascalz cash in with Cash Crop

By ANDREW HALL
Staff Writer

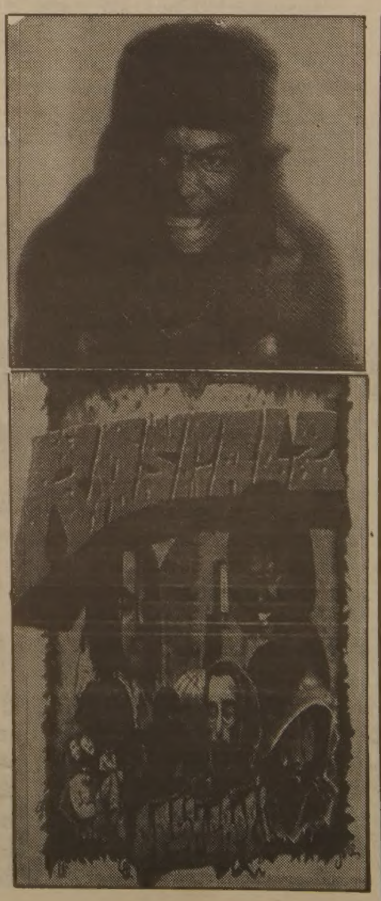
The boys from the Northwest are back with fresh beats and conscious rhymes.

In their second release, **Cash Crop** (BMG, Figure Four), Vancouver's own RASCALZ (Red 1, Misfit, Kemo, Dedos and Zebroc) bring forth the cool and original sound that made them a hit on their first album.

In the first single, appropriately titled *Dreaded Fist Of The Northwest*, the superior skills of Red 1 can be heard as he and Misfit rhyme about being taken seriously in today's largely Americanized hiphop industry.

Asked what sets RASCALZ apart from the rest and what makes this album different, Red 1 said, "We each bring different techniques to the songs and we each allow the beats and lyrics to flow from deep within our souls."

Cash Crop brings a dose of reality to a corrupt hiphop world. With Kemo on the beats and Red 1 and Misfit on the mic, this album is their best release yet. We can hope it is not their last.



Lamb's novel She's Come Undone captivating

By KAREN GELLATLY
Staff Writer

While recently perusing the shelves in a book store, I came upon a little sign I had never seen before. It read "recommended by Oprah." I wondered to myself, who is Oprah to recommend a book to me? Although the book did seem interesting from the back cover, I deliberately chose a book she had not recommended.

She's Come Undone, Wally Lamb's first novel, captivated me from the very first page. As it seems, I couldn't put it down.

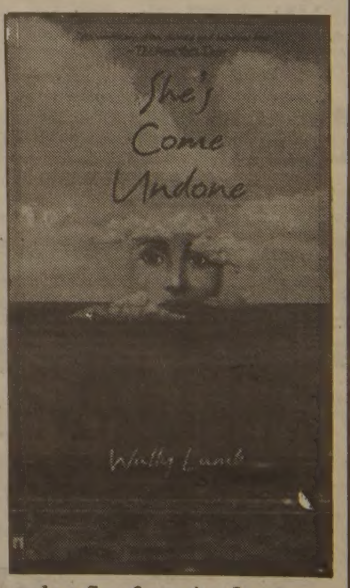
The novel's protagonist, Dolores Price, begins her tale at the age of four with a vivid recollection of her family's shattered wholeness.

With her mother moved to an insane asylum and her father gone, Dolores is sent to live with her elderly grandmother, whom she despises.

She enters high school at 13, weighing in at 260 pounds. With an amusing wit and charm she survives many of life's struggles.

Just when her life seems to be getting on track, all seems to crumble again, but she will not be destroyed.

With a surprising ending that may bring tears to your eyes, *She's Come Undone* is sure to be only a first for writer Lamb.



After finishing the book and returning to the book store a week later, I was surprised to see a "recommended by Oprah" sign beneath my new-found favorite book.

Academy Award performance by Crystal

By CARLY ANDREWS
Staff Writer

Tom Cruise and Madonna are sitting at home now gazing at their gold statuettes.

Lauren Bacall is in the middle of a seance with her dead husband, giving him the message that she has her own Oscar.

Also, Cameron Crowe, director of *Jerry Maguire*, is posing for many photographs with his little bald man.

If anyone believes any of this garbage, then where were you on March 24?

As most of the world knows, the 69th annual Academy Awards were host to more than a billion viewers, eagerly waiting to see their favorite stars win Hollywood's most coveted statue.

Billy Crystal returned as host for the fifth time, having been absent from the awards for the past three years.

He kept the audience in stitches from his appearance in the spoof of film clips, his *It's a Wonderful Night for Oscar* medley, his corny World Wide Web jokes, to his constant pokes at Best Supporting Actor Cuba Gooding Jr.

"I'm glad *The English Patient* did not have a nomination for Best Song," said Andrew Lloyd Webber. He breathed a sigh of relief after winning for his collaboration with lyricist Tim Rice on "You Must Love Me" from *Evita*. Andrew spoke for the rest of the nominees in other categories who lost to the epic picture.

Father-and-son team Saul Zaentz and Anthony Minghella were all smiles as they picked up their golden trophies in the nine-Oscar sweep of *The English Patient* as producer and director of the film.

English Patient stars Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas cheered as their film picked up nine awards, including one for Best Supporting Actress Juliette Binoche, but looked close to tears as Geoffrey Rush in *Shine* and Frances McDormand in *Fargo* won their Oscars for Best Actor and Best Actress in a Leading Role.

'I'm glad The English Patient did not have a nomination for Best Song,' Andrew Lloyd Webber

Lauren Bacall could not share the feeling her late husband Humphrey Bogart experienced when she lost to Binoche for her nomination in *The Mirror Has Two Faces*.

Bacall was just 27 when Bogie picked up an award for his performance in the 1951 film *The African Queen*. She had never been nominated for anything. She admitted to Barbara Walters before the awards that never having been nominated made her feel like she wasn't "a real actor."

The 72-year-old said she was glad that finally she might be handed an award for something other than for lifetime achievement. Bogie must have been proud.

The Coen brothers scored one for Canadians when they picked up Oscars for their original screenplay for *Fargo*. Toronto native Michael Ondaatje must have had a huge smile on his face when his *English Patient* captured the most amount of awards since *Ben-Hur* stole the show with 11 wins for its 11 nominations in 1959.

Billy Bob Thornton put *Forrest Gump* to shame when he won for best adapted screenplay for his acting/directing/writing triumph as a mentally challenged murderer in *Sling Blade*. Garth Brooks must have been proud when he caught a glimpse of Thornton's cowboy digs. Hee-haw!

Despite the absence of *Secret & Lies* and Barbra Streisand at the podium, shunned actresses Nicole Kidman, Courtney Love, Madonna, and Debbie Reynolds strutted their gams in front of billions, showing that the lack of winning an Oscar can't keep these glamor girls down.

Who cares what the Academy thinks?

Honorable mentions in the glamor category should include 50-year-old stars Goldie Hawn, Diane Keaton, and Bette Midler rubbing it in that "only the *First Wives* were invited to the Academy Awards."

At 12:34 a.m., it was "Crystal" clear no one could be disappointed with the 69th annual Academy Awards. Those who felt cheated probably voted for *Secrets & Lies* for Best Picture.

Reviewer praises new CD

By ALEX HALMAI
Staff Writer

Chances are you've probably never even heard of the Cranes.

The majority of North Americans into guitar rock have been caught up in a seemingly never-ending bombardment of so-called grunge bands, crashing through speakers in waves of pop-oriented predictable noise, so far away from the music and message of the early Seattle scene. The Cranes, however, have quietly made a noise of their own in Europe with their Britpop sound.

Not so long ago in Prague there were near riots when tickets for the Cranes gig sold out.

Brother/sister partnership Allison and Jim Shaw formed the nucleus of the Cranes in the late '80s.

Opening for such bands as The Cure moved the Cranes into the top 30 on U.K. charts.

Their latest release, **Population Four**, highlights the cleverness and and depth of Britpop's ability to touch the mind, body, and soul of the listener.

If you're looking for an introduction to music with truth and substance about love and life, you're looking for the British music scene.

The Cranes will take you there and give you more than enough reasons to never look back.

It sounds like . . .

By BRENDA BEAVEN
Staff Writer

If you like the sounds of House of Pain, Cypress Hill and Funkdoobiest, then *THE SOUL ASSASSINS CHAPTER 1* is for you.

As for me, I found the album entertaining for about five minutes then the repetitive beat became boring.

There is a strong anti-racist message, but it could have been expressed in a more creative manner.

'I wouldn't rush out to buy it,' -Brenda Beaven

I also found a hint of sexism.

Track six — by LA the Darkman — talks about the trouble of black youth, then he refers to women as bitches.

The line I'm referring to is "Not only money bring bitches, and bitches can't be trusted."

Obviously these men have a head on their shoulders and if they can stand up for the black cause that they should also consider the black women as well.

The album is put together well, but I wouldn't rush out to buy it.

Last Edition April 18th

Welland fund-raiser set for April 12

Laughter and music. Rare for a disabled child?

Not on Saturday, April 12, when Yuk Yuk's comedy and music by Welland-based bands will fill the New Rose Villa, 154 Riverside Dr., Welland. The event is presented by Hawk Roxx and Co.

The fundraiser for Welland-area children with disabilities will feature the hilarious Tony Venditti, music by Saturday Night Special, Summers' Eve, Whitefrost, Crackerhead, Rob Marleau of Rust Never Sleeps, and Toronto recording artists Drop Kick Me Jesus.

BENEFIT SHOW
SATURDAY, APRIL 12
THE NEW ROSE VILLA
FEATURING:
THE HILARIOUS TONY VENDITTI OF
YUK YUKS COMEDY!

A spectacular light show will be provided by Chris Gauthier, whose previous work includes the Disney and Niagara Festival of Lights.

Admission to the licensed event is $10. Doors open at 6 p.m. For more information call 735-5203.

Drop Kick Me Jesus released its self-titled debut CD last October in a sold-out venue at Club Amnesia hosted by Q-107's Joey Vendetta. The band was showcased at The Montana Cafe's Canadian Music Week '97 on March 8.

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Life away from home not a big party

By KIM DEGRAW
Staff Writer

Life away from home isn't always a "wild party."

Niagara College student Kevin Smith, 21, is taking a break from his studies because of the stresses in everyday life.

In other words, he is "tight for money" just like many students.

"It's not that I don't like school, it's just that I can't afford it right now," he says.

Smith moved to Welland from Tillsonburg, Ont., in 1994 to find employment in the computer industry.

He says he "had it all."

His parents were financially stable enough to pay for tuition, books, parking and even rent. Having a part-time job was for pure spending money, he says.

However, the dream collapsed when "college life" soon took over.

Smith dropped out.

"I was 19 and it was my first time being out on my own. I think it went to my head a little too much because school wasn't a priority for me anymore."

Smith eventually saved enough money for tuition on his own to show his parents he was serious about school.

"I felt really stupid for what I had done. I had so much, and I just threw it all away. I learned so much from that experience."

In January 1996, Smith was enrolled again as a first-year student in the Computer Engineering Technology program.

He says he was on his way to "a better life."

During his first term, he moved to St. Catharines, which didn't seem like too much of a problem at the time. Smith says he "realized" financial support from his parents was something he didn't want anymore.

"I was going to be 21 and my parents had been so financially supportive for me even after what I had done. I just wanted to show them that I could do it on my own."

Smith is finished his first year of the program, but is waiting to start his second year when he can save enough money and feel "somewhat comfortable." He is eligible for the Ontario Student Assistance Program, but isn't sure he'll apply for it.

Smith says he isn't discouraged that it has taken him two years to get through one full year of college.

He's "confident" in what he's doing and, he says, it's teaching him a "great deal" about how life really is.

He says he's "feeling a little more like an adult these days."

"The thought of going back to school is very much a priority now. I just wish I had thought of being serious earlier on."

Choosing wine like buying 'new pair of jeans'

By SHARON WHALING
Staff Writer

White, red, dry, semi-dry, sweet, ice, burgundy and grappa were the common words overheard as I wandered down the aisles at the 14th annual Wine and Cheese Show in Toronto recently.

"Winemaking is an art," the Vineland Estates Winery brochure reads. The perfect wine is not only determined on factors of appearance, color, taste, but also on "a most natural canvas of sun, soil and fruit, coupled with the catalyst of time."

What does this mean to the consumer? As I learned, the most expensive wine is not always the best tasting. Aged or not, I would say a good wine is as personal as a favorite pair of jeans. I am not a true connoisseur but, like trying on a new pair of jeans, usually with your first feeling of the fit or look, you instantly know if you like them. So it is with wine.

The criteria determining wine contents' similarities may be a foreign language, but once you try a few, it's easily understood.

Wine is grouped into tasting categories. Dry, semi-dry, very dry, or sweet. In simple terms, it describes the sugar content.

There are various kinds of wines. Reisling, chardonnay, ice wine, seyval blanc, sparkling, sauvignon blanc, cabernet sauvignon, rose, pinot noir just to name a few. Overwhelming — perhaps.

What's in a name? This pertains to the winemaking procedures or kinds of grapes used.

For example, ice wine results when grapes are left on the vine until thoroughly frozen, then pressed before they can thaw. They produce a sweet, smooth, fine dessert wine. This is considered a speciality wine and more costly because of the labor-intensive procedure.

Many wineries were represented at the show. Exhibits included wines of Argentina, Chile, Greece, France ... but one of the busiest areas was the Tastes of Niagara and Wines of Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.

'...the most expensive wine is not always the best tasting.' —Sharon Whaling

Having recently moved here to attend college, it opened my eyes to the uniqueness of the Niagara Region and its recognized wine reputation.

I also discovered wine is becoming more popular. It's no longer a drink for society's elite, but rather a practical drink to enjoy alone or with dinner.

Discovering wine, food, cigars

By SHARON WHALING
Staff Writer

Wines, liqueurs, beers, specialty foods, cheeses and fine cigars captivated visitors at the 14th annual Wine and Cheese Show held recently at Toronto's International Centre.

Admission of $12 included a complimentary wine glass. Wine samples were offered for a price. Beverage tickets were three for $1. Samples ranged from two to 89 tickets for one glass. Cheese samples were free. Other speciality foods were available at cost. Organizers did not know how many people were expected to attend the show.

Professional wine tasters use four criteria when savoring and testing wines. Descriptive words include clarity, color, distinctive smell and the level of sweetness. Average wines are graded for sugar content on a level between 0-4 but can range beyond that. The higher the number, the sweeter the wine.

Judy Trebbell, of Gibley's Signature Group, Smirnoff, says to consider the flavor of any wine it should have the flavor of the grapes from which it was made.

The show also offered a Liquor Control Board of Ontario retail area for those wishing to purchase their favorite wine or beverage of the day.

Beyond wines, this year a cigar street was introduced to present fine cigars. People had the opportunity to buy cigars and savor them in a designated smoking lounge. Tobacconist John Hamilton, of Flor du Honduras Cigars, says, "It's all in personal desires and likes of what makes a good cigar."

The show provided companies with a chance to market old and new products and gave the public the chance to taste fine foods or beverages.

Bingo Bucks

Niagara College alumni are holding fundraising bingos on Saturday, April 12 and May 10 at the Skyway bingo in St. Catharines.

Volunteers are needed to keep the bingos running.

The money raised is applied to the Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund and student bursaries. The trust's deadline, in which monies are matched dollar-for-dollar by the provincial government, was March 30.

An alumni meeting will be held Tuesday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Foundation office. For more information contact Martha Gleddie or Lewis Silvestri at 905-988-5211.

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Teacher donates time to help children

By JENNIFER DONNELLY
Staff Writer

When Michael Chupik, a part-time teacher at Niagara College, isn't juggling his abnormal psychology class and developmental psychology class, he spends the rest of his time helping children with developmental disabilities.

Chupik, 47, of Welland, teaches the causes, treatments, history, and classification of abnormal behavior; and the study of development over a lifespan.

"I like the ability to work with young people who are interested in what I am," he said. "I hope to impart a degree of knowledge, and help them in their career choices."

This is Chupik's first term back in 20 years. He said he taught Early Childhood Education for disabled pre-schoolers before. "The support offered by the staff to feel at home is outstanding," he said. The classes here are double the size of those he last taught.

Chupik taught abnormal psychology and an introduction to psychology at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ont. He taught at Brock University in St. Catharines. He was educated at the University of Waterloo in Waterloo, Ont., and at the University of Toronto in Toronto.

He manages a regional program for children who are developmentally disabled. This full-time job at the Hotel Dieu Hospital in St. Catharines includes planning services for children with special needs. He has worked in an Infant Education program supporting families with infants with delayed development. He has also helped pre-school teachers to deal with developmentally disabled preschoolers at the Niagara Child Development Centre.

Under his father's influence, he said he became interested with children. He said he was a social worker, but then realized what he wanted to do. "My dad was great with kids — a good role model — he was always coaching for sports teams."

He said he made choices because of his brother's difficulties. "My brother had a developmental disability and I saw how much difficulty he had, especially with social skills."

The combination of background training, work and education in dealing with special needs children, Chupik said, helps him in his job because both courses deal with adults and children with special needs.

Chupik said he admires individuals with principles, and who "rise above a political situation."

"Mother Theresa is someone whom I admire. It's extraordinary how she devoted her time to people with leprosy, and without getting paid for it," he said.

Chupik has a wife and two daughters. His children are attending Trent University, in Peterborough, Ont., and the University of Waterloo in Waterloo. "The phone doesn't ring anymore. I miss them."

'I like the ability to work with young people who are interested in what I am.'
— Michael Chupik

Chupik said his family is "loving, caring, and (are) nice people to be around." They are important to him, he said, because he made the choice of having children, and has "a depth of love" for them and his wife.

He and his wife work long hours. His wife is a manager at the Welland Red Cross, and helped set up the homeless shelter. "Sometimes we won't see each other," he said, "but if the kids were younger, it would affect us more."

Chupik has spent "wonderfu family vacations" in the Yucata Peninsula in Mexico. "We wen snorkeling, swimming, walking i the jungle, and swimming throug caves with bats, like in the movi Indiana Jones." He said they rent ed a houseboat and went along th narrow English canals in Wales.

If Chupik isn't cross-country ski ing in the winter, he is golfing in th warmer weather. He said he enjoy jazz music and his favorite musi cians are Kirby Hancock, an George Henson. His all-tim favorite movies, he said, are Fiel of Dreams because it reminds hin of his dad, and the Wizard of Oz.

In the future, Chupik said he'd like to keep teaching "to keep his options open," because of all the cuts. To improve his life, he said, he would like to be certified as a teacher. "But if I weren't a teacher, I would want to be a carpenter. I like to work with my hands."

College's gloom may be cause of 'spirits' doom

By ALEX HALMAI
Staff Writer

Niagara College's old interior casts a gloomy atmosphere, say students.

Built in 1967, Niagara College has made "minimal changes" to the general look of its main building at the Welland campus, said Lou Dimattio, assistant to the vice-president of community and learner services. Dimattio has been employed by the college for 24 years.

While most college offices have undergone some form of renovation, the school's hallways, sitting areas, and most classrooms have "stayed the same in their configuration," said Dimattio.

The colors make you feel lazy and tired.
—Jeff Houghson

"The atmosphere is gloomy. It's too dark and it takes away your energy," said Nadia Barone, 19, first-year Retail Management program student from Niagara Falls.

The college's hallways and classrooms are consistently painted in grey, and an assortment of faded shades of brown and beige.

"The colors make you feel lazy and tired," said Jeff Houghson, 19, first-year Business Administration program student from Fonthill.

The hallways and sitting areas of the college, where students spend the majority of their free time, "don't contain a great atmosphere to hang around in," said Jeremy Sharkey, 21, first-year Computer Engineering program student from St. Thomas, Ont. "It's like, do your work and get out of here!" said Sharkey.

The "lack of lighting and windows" together make the building a "little dreary," said Owen Baggott, 23, second-year Journalism-Print program student from St. Catharines.

Missing or broken clocks, plugs and switches with no cover plates, ancient signs and furniture, and fading paint decorate many classrooms.

Dimattio said "the lack of maintenance staff, time and budget constraints" are the main reasons behind the lack of change to the asthetics of the school's interior.

Many of the main buildings' classrooms and washrooms come equipped with furniture resembling canvas for the college's many aspiring graffiti artists. By defacing school property the students are keeping "school maintenance lov due to vandalism," said Dimattio

If the school's Studen Administrative Council is lookin for ways to improve the level o spirit at the college, looking at it interior and what the students thin of it, may be a good start.

"It's depressing, it's dead, and i affects school spirit," said Lis Johnston, 21, first-year Busines Administration program studen from Hamilton. "Who would wan to come here?" said Johnston.

Police seek assistance in assault case

CRIME STOPPERS OF NIAGARA

Crime Stoppers and Niagara Regional Police investigators are looking for information to help solve a St. Catharines' assault.

On Sunday, Jan. 26, at about 1:30 p.m., a young woman was walking up Glenridge Hll, not far from Brock University, when she was grabbed from behind by an unknown male. The suspect grabbed her in a bear hug and tried to pull her over to the embankment. The victim screamed for help and the suspect released his hold and ran off.

The suspect is described as a male white, mid to late 40's, 5'7" tall, medium build, short dark hair, mustache and round glasses. He was wearing blue jeans, long green winter coat, green toque, tan hiking boots and tan gloves.

If you have information regarding this assault or any other crime, call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-263-8477, or 1-800-222-TIPS to be eligible for a cash award up to $1,000. In all cases you won't have to reveal your identity.

The Niagara Regional Police in co-operation with Crime Stoppers Niagara Inc. writes this column to help combat crime. A citizen board administers the local program. Reward money is raised through tax deductible donations. Cheques may be sent to Crime Stoppers of Niagara Inc., P.O. Box 1086, St. Catharines, ON L2R 7A3.

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Students find life 'fulfilling' at Welland campus

By JENNIFER DONNELLY
Staff Writer

No matter what program a student is in, many find campus life and schooling fulfilling at Niagara College in Welland.

Heather VanBiesbrouck, 19, of Grimsby, is a first-year student in the Broadcasting, Radio, Television, and Film program. The three-year program is a study of media.

VanBiesbrouck said she chose this college because "few colleges offer all three types of media in one program." She said "it has a good reputation" and "it's close to home."

She said she likes the size of the college and the friendly people. "It's an intimate high school atmosphere."

VanBiesbrouck said she's learning everything in general about the fields, and that she gets to specialize in one. "Our teachers are involved in the industry, and they get us to feel like we're doing something professional," she said. "They give us a feeling of achievement with our work."

She used her life savings, two savings bonds, babysitting earnings, and money earned from two jobs to pay for the first year of college. "I'm getting what I want out of the program with the money I saved." She said she plans to try to save money and get an Ontario Student Assistant Program (OSAP) loan for next year.

VanBiesbrouck lives in an apartment in Welland. She discovered the apartment by a pamphlet sent in the mail with her college acceptance forms. She said she tried to find a place near the school, but this was the "nicest and safest."

'I like the independence' — Dave Wishart

She said living on her own relieves the stress of living with her parents, and there's more peace and quiet to get her work done.

First-year Niagara College student Dave Wishart, 20, of Whitby, Ont., is in the two-year General Arts and Technology program. He believes in the same apartment complex.

"I like the independence and freedom of living on my own," he said. "And I like the feeling I'm in control of my life instead of my parents."

Wishart said he came to Niagara because his guidance counsellor recommended it highly.

He said he finds his program "informative, challenging, and it has a good teacher-student ratio. The people are friendly too."

He received OSAP. "I am grateful for the money I received," he said, "but I'm not living comfortably."

Norm McCabe, 21, of Stoney Creek, Ont., is a student in the Mechanical Engineering program. He is in his first year of the four-year program.

He came here because he "wanted to get away from home, but not too far from home, and people recommended Niagara College over other colleges."

He said he enjoys having lots of friends and the After Hours pub. McCabe said he likes the program because he knows he'll have ajob when he's done. He's taking courses related to the job, and not too many irrelevent courses.

"My dad is paying for my education and housing. In fact, I'll probably work at his company after I graduate," he said.

There are some problems though. "Some of the books are overpriced, I have to supply my own computer, and the tuition is higher than most of the other programs," McCabe said.

He lives in an apartment in Welland, which he discovered from friends. "I like living on my own," he said. "It's easy. I don't have any parental conflicts."

Interactive multimedia co-ordinator a people person

By JENNIFER COTE
Staff Writer

Dave Robinson is a self-confessed people-lover, and as co-ordinator of the Interactive Multimedia program at Niagara College, he has to be.

Robinson, 50, has been at the program's helm since its inception two years ago and said he is quite happy there.

"In another life" Robinson was a burnt-out high school graduate with only one desire — no more school.

"I didn't want (to go to) school, but I had an underlying need to do more," Robinson said.

He ended up a certified steel fitter, stressed-out, knowing he needed more.

A few degrees and diplomas later — one in adult education and one in design and production — and Robinson landed his position here.

Robinson's position involves teaching courses, currently multimedia management and project development lab; solving curriculum problems; co-ordinating the courses to fit the program; and, Robinson's favorite, interacting with the students.

"Contact and personal involvement with the students is important," he said. "It's what keeps me here."

Robinson said he thoroughly enjoys working at the college and loves having some sort of input as to how the program works.

He said it is also enjoyable and rewarding to work with the "many talented people in the program" and to learn from "all the different experiences each person brings to the program."

Robinson said he did have a gripe about the amount of paperwork he has to do, which keeps him away from his first love — the students.

He said he dislikes the need for "absolute" organization, but also acknowledges his lack of it is based on his "own shortcomings."

Robinson's one wish, however, is to have "less red tape and more flexibility in curriculum areas," but concedes overall, there is "a pretty good mix of administration and teaching."

Robinson said his position at the college is his "dream job."

"It fulfills a need for me to satisfy a curiosity I have about people," Robinson said. "And to really meet and work with different personalities and different levels of hopes and dreams and to believe I contribute to their success. . . that makes me feel good."

Painting for tuition

By IAN ANDERSON
Staff Writer

"Hire for attitude, train for skill," is College Pro Painting's motto.

It's the motto used to make it an industry leader for the past 25 years, says Deanna Coop, 20, a franchise manager.

College Pro Painting is a national leader in the home and commercial painting market.

It is a leader because of its good business practices and use of quality products and workers, says Coop, of Niagara Falls, Ont., a full-time biology student at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo.

College Pro Painting is a student-run corporation. Students are hired by the franchise managers. Most are university or college students hired for summer employment.

She says students who are energetic and reliable could work at College Pro painters.

Company literature states responsible painters are promoted to supervisory positions within their first summer. Successful employees are eligible to apply for and manage an outlet the next year.

Students learn good business practices, says Coop. "I've learned how to run my own business and how to have good business relations. I am a biology student and I still enjoy running my business.

"If you need to pay for your tuition, this is the way to do it," she says.

Once hired, a student may be required to work five days a week and some weekends. All students hired are provided with the proper training on how to paint.

Painters work from May 5 to Aug. 30 and are paid a student wage.

Students requiring more information or a job application can telephone the College Pro head office at 1-800-465-2839 and ask for Coop.

Child labor activist speaks out

By DAN DAKIN
Staff Writer

At 14 years old, he may be young but child labor activist Craig Keilburger has stronger beliefs than most people twice his age.

Recently, the Thornhill resident spoke to a crowd of 300 at a Welland high school.

"There are 250 million children working around the world today," said Keilburger, "and I am not optimistic that the situation will improve."

He gave examples from Pakistan and Brazil where those convicted of employing children often bribe their way out of a prison sentence. Police try to make arrests on a Friday just so the suspects are forced to spend one or two nights in jail.

On many occasions, parents are forced and tricked, because of poverty, into selling or giving away their children to owners of factories. Keilburger said what people don't understand is that it's not just small and unknown companies but often large corporations such as Nike and Reebok caught using child labor.

Explaining how he became involved in speaking out against the problem, Keilburger said, "I was 12 years old at the time and to be honest, I didn't even know where Pakistan was on a map. But that morning I picked up the paper looking for the comics and by accident I saw *the* article. This forever changed my life."

The article he read told of Igbal Maske, a 12-year-old boy from Pakistan forced to work between 14 and 16 hours every day. Maske escaped from the factory but was murdered after he spoke out against child labor.

Keilburger is the founder of Free the Children, an organization with groups based around the world fighting to end child labor. The employment of children is what he calls "the black hole" of human rights.

"I believe young people have rights and the power to make a difference," said Amini Khana, a 12-year-old member of the organization.

Although Keilburger has met Prime Minister Jean Chretien and Lloyd Axworthy, Canada's foreign affairs minister, he said he has no intentions of getting involved in politics.

"I don't think politics are my calling. I've met too many politicians."

IT at Brock University

IT is here!

Niagara College will be host for the fourth annual Instructional Technology (IT) Conference May 28 to 30 at Brock University, St. Catharines.

The theme, Invitational Technology, focuses on how instructional technologies can invite, enhance and encourage teaching and learning.

The conference is sponsored by the Educational Technologies Coordinating Committee for the Ontario Community College system.

The IT Conference enables Ontario educators to share experiences and discuss the issues and challenges of using instructional technologies. Formats will include single or group presentations, demonstrations, interactive workshops and case studies.

Aries: Are your friends really your friends?

By RAE ANNE SMITH
Staff Writer

Here are your horoscopes for the weekend of April 5 and 6.

Aries (March 21-April 20)
Lucky numbers 18, 34
Love: You will meet a wicked looking person, but be careful, they may be a little weird.
Life: Big investment on the way, don't be discouraged.
Friends: They might not be there when you need them, think again are they really your friends?

Taurus (April 21-May 21)
Lucky numbers 14, 53
Love: Things are going strong, that loved one will need you to give them a shoulder to lean on.
Life: Keep up on your projects, work at a good pace and don't give up.
Friends: Girls' night out, don't pass up the adventure.

Gemini (May 22-June 21)
Lucky numbers 8, 44
Love: There are plenty more fish in the sea, take a break and let them come to you.
Life: Good things come in small packages, yours may be on the way.
Friends: There's a secret lurking and is in your favor.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)
Lucky numbers 4, 13
Love: Don't be afraid, call them why wait? You make the first move.
Life: Something's coming in the mail, good news on the way.
Friends: Don't be afraid to admit you need them, they're your friends.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
Lucky numbers 11, 66
Love: Romantic weekend of star gazing in each other's arms
Life: Try your luck with a Lotto 649 ticket.
Friends: A friend's birthday on the way, go have a blast with your old pals.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Lucky numbers 6, 21
Love: That number you have might just come in handy.
Life: Stick in, just a few more weeks to go, pace yourself.
Friends: You don't have that much time for them, don't worry they will understand.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Lucky numbers 30, 48
Love: A night of dancing will charge sparks, kick up your heels.
Life: A call will notify you of a change in your life.
Friends: Big fight may not be your fault after all.

Scorpio (Oct, 23-Nov. 21)
Lucky numbers 41, 99
Love: Not much going on, time to yourself is good.
Life: Boost your self-esteem, go on a shopping spree.
Friends: A special dinner with friends, don't blow it off.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Lucky numbers 16, 17
Love: Don't be intimidated by other's sexual preference, take the straight and narrow path.
Life: Stay away from the casino, control yourself already.
Friends: Tell them the truth, they deserve it.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Lucky numbers 45, 58
Love: Take the dinner invitation, it may lead to something.
Life: Spend time with the family, you'll thank yourself later.
Friends: Go out and get a group photo, make some memories.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Lucky numbers 5, 7
Love: Give a gift out of the blue, to say I love you.
Life: Take the trip it's an opportunity of a lifetime.
Friends: Do the guy thing, go out and kick it.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
Lucky numbers 1, 3
Love: Spring fever flowing through your body, go for it.
Life: Make copies of everything, they will be needed in the future.
Friends: Don't let them interfere in your work, they have to understand.

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Students express their concerns to Patterson

By PAUL BASWICK
Staff Writers

Concerns over tuition increases and receiving quality education were voiced in the first President's Advisory Forum on April 1.

The forum gave students and faculty the chance to speak directly to College President Dan Patterson about issues concerning them.

The discussion, held in Room ME113 of the Welland campus, was, at times, frank.

"I don't think I'm getting a good education," said a student in the Quality Control program.

"I've been told I can't do anything because I'm a student. I don't know what to do," she said.

Dr. Doug Rogers, who has taught English at the college for 22 years, raised the issue of tuition increases.

While commending Patterson for distributing next year's 10 per cent tuition increase equally among all college programs, Rogers warned if some programs are made less accessible than others because of varying tuition fees, the college cannot survive.

He said he hopes anyone in favor of making certain programs less accessible "will quit Niagara College and start working for DeVry" (a private training institute).

Patterson said such feedback showed the "neccessity" of the President's Advisory Forum.

"An open forum like this is an integral part of hearing input and discussion," he said. "If there's no response, it's unacceptable."

About 45 staff and students attended the 90-minute forum.

Patterson, in addition to responding to the forum's participants, shared his own views on the college's operation.

The president said the college will seek a stronger "partnership" with the private sector, resulting from a decrease in government dollars to the college.

"We can no longer do business as we've done in the past," he said. "The pie's gotten smaller."

Patterson said "loose guidelines" governing the relationship between business and the college demand "tough decisions" be made about college policies.

"Advertising in the washrooms, our involvement with the casino. There have been difficult, difficult issues for us," he said.

Patterson says as Niagara College becomes more involved with the private sector, the college guidelines concerning involvement with business "may have to become more explicit."

Apart from its partnership with business, Patterson said the college must improve "student retention," making sure students in the college complete their programs.

Photographer's eyes

Pictured are several of the award winners in the fourth annual Journalism-Print program "Best of Year 2" photography competition held recently. Front row from left: Keri-Lynn Smith, first in sports, third in news, tied for third in human interest; Heather Hunter, best overall in show, first in human interest; Melissa Labbe, first in news, honorable mention in sports. Back row from left: Jennifer Harding, honorable mention in news; Katherine Nadeau, third in news, second in human interest; Jhim Burwell, second in news. Absent from the photograph were: Penni Toneguzzo, second in sports, Mike Hastings, third in sports; Jennifer Gibson, honorable mention in news; Samantha Goldwin, third in human interest, and Jennifer Elliott, honorable mention in human interest. The top winning photographs are showcased on pages 12 and 13.

Photo by Jeannie Orban

Cable work experience helps college students

Working for Rogers Cable 10

By MARK SACCUCCI
Staff Writer

Television station Rogers Community 10 is helping to give students an edge.

Chuck Antal, 21, a graduate of the Broadcasting, Radio, Television and Film program at Niagara College in Welland, says broadcasting is a competitive industry.

To find a job in this industry, he says, "you have to know someone and must be willing to move."

Having an edge is important, says Antal. "You need something that makes an employer want to hire you."

Volunteering is good for students who want to get ahead, he says. "It's great that Rogers will help students gain experience. You need all you can get."

Antal started working with Rogers about five years ago after completing a co-op with Rogers through St. Michael High School in Niagara Falls, Ont.

As master control operator, Antal maintains smooth operation for the Niagara Falls, St. Catharines and Welland systems while playing back programming for the Niagara Region.

"Having a co-op with Rogers in high school gave me an edge," says Antal, adding, "Going into college, I already had experience."

Antal says his dream is to work for the World Wrestling Federation, but he likes working for Rogers. "I like the teamwork," he says. "They're always willing to guide you in the right direction."

What he likes most about his job is meeting people and "being in the public eye."

Advice Antal gives to students is "do your work. You can't fool around," he says. "Broadcasting is tough and image is important."

He says his goal is to get into public relations.

"I will end up whereever life takes me."

Closing Mack Centre 'will drain region of resources,' says nurse

By KATHLEEN McARTHUR
Staff Writer

Once students could return to Niagara College to upgrade a nursing diploma, however, that is no longer possibile.

Having graduated in 1994, Sarah Davis, 30, of St. Catharines, will be forced to travel to Hamilton or further to upgrade to registered nurse or registered practioners aide from her present health care aide status.

"Closing the Mack Centre and other training facilities will drain the region of resourses," she said last week. "Economically this is another nail in Niagara's coffin."

She said future medical personnel "will invest outside of the region" instead of home.

Employed as a homemaker with Canadian Red Cross in St. Catharines, she "assists people regain their independence" during their recovery period at home from an injury or early release from the hospital.

She said she welcomed by the main caregiver to someone with a long-term illness, such as someone with Parkinson's disease "for a much needed time-out."

"Americans want a health-care system like Canada had," she said.

Under the provincial government, the nursing profession has seen a number of jobs lost.

She said "nurses are the first to lose their positions at the patient's expense, and the first to have their pay cut and frozen."

She said wards in the hospitals, which are radidly closing, will have only a few nurses on staff with several patients under their care." The announced increase to the previously cut health budget, "will not bring back the pride it once held in the international medical circles," said Davis.

"We are seeing a shift in times," Davis said. "Americans once came to Canada to receive the best medical care available, now it is quicker and more accessible for Canadians to seek medical attention in the U.S.," she said.

Nursing students have had to face not only the cuts to health care as a threat to their future, but also have had to live with the cuts in education, she said.

"People need to know that when they are ill there will be someone around to nurse them back to health."

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